

## PRIVATE

threats but she refused to answer. I never found out what she did, if anything, that resulted in my being placed in care but I always found these comments unsettling.

6. I used to wet the bed in the home daily. The staff would strap me to the bed and sometimes they left me there for days in the wet bed. Even though I would wet the bed again I would just have to stay there and I was left to lie in the wet bed. They would then take me out of my restraints and drop me in a cold bath in order to clean me. They would hold me by the feet, drop me into a tin bath of water and hold me down in the water. I believe another boy in the home, **AU 80** also got this treatment. They would threaten to return me to my mother if I told anyone what they were doing and their comments never made sense to me. Their treatment of me gave me a lifelong fear of water. I have had homes with swimming pools but I would never go swimming or use the pool.
7. I was also punished for wetting the bed by being placed in a room where they kept coal called the dungeon. I am not sure if this happened in the home or in the church but I recall being placed there, sleeping in the dark and then being returned to my bed. I recall a name, it was **MH 2**. He was one of the older boys or he might have been an altar boy at the church. He took me down to the dungeon with some other members of staff. I was often smacked on the ear by other members of staff, not by **MH 2** and I attribute my hearing loss that I now suffer to the treatment I received as a child.
8. I recall a device being put on my penis and on my testicles by staff in the home. They said they were helping me, the idea of doing this was that it would help me to wake up but it gave me electric shocks when they were applying it to my body and I do not know if they were deliberately giving me electric shocks with this device. I do not remember which members of staff did this to me. I remember a similar device being used by the home that I was sent to in Australia.
9. They also used to lay me on a bed on my stomach with my knees up behind me and put things into my rectum or they would place a funnel in my rectum and force liquid through it and into my rectum. They would ask if it hurt and they

1       either sent to bed early or they were denied going on  
2       an outing, and that pocket money might have been  
3       deducted if damage was caused by children in the home.  
4       Do you remember that type of punishment?

5     **A. No. I was just always put in the cellar or -- you know,**  
6       **I have never been put to bed; just threw into the**  
7       **cellar, you know.**

8     Q. We have heard there was a basement in the home. That's  
9       what you mean by the cellar?

10    **A. Yes.**

11    Q. That lower -- that lower level of the home?

12    **A. Yes.**

13    Q. When you were put in there, HIA366, what was it like?  
14       I mean, was it a particular room that you were put into  
15       or was it --

16    **A. It was real old and wet and dark and it was just a --**  
17       **it's horrifying, you know. It's so dark and ...**

18    Q. Was there a bed or a chair --

19    **A. No, no.**

20    Q. -- or anything like that?

21    **A. The floor was wet. Real old, you know.**

22    Q. We have seen photographs of Manor House that suggest it  
23       was an old Victorian type building.

24    **A. Yes, yes.**

25    Q. Paragraph 12 you go on to talk about:

1       it's like a fabric that the water wouldn't go through or  
2       the urine wouldn't go through to the mattress, and  
3       I would be left on that mattress for sometimes I believe  
4       -- well, at least 24 hours before I would be taken away.

5           Two things happened here. One, they would often  
6       dunk my head into what -- some sort of a tin basin or  
7       I would be put in a cold bath. Okay? So on both  
8       occasions they would -- they would also -- as you can  
9       see here, I wear hearing aids. I constantly had my head  
10      banged up against the wall or their hands on both sides,  
11      they would whack my ears together and my ears were  
12      damaged I believe. Most of the damage or the start of  
13      the damage was done in Northern Ireland. It affected my  
14      hearing.

15   Q.   Yes. You describe this treatment in paragraph 10, where  
16       you say you always remember:

17           "... being thumped on my head by staff at Manor  
18      House."

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   You describe the open-handed hitting of your ears and  
21       you also recall being punished by the use of a cane, and  
22       you remember over --

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   -- with long strings attached, which really hurt on  
25       impact, and whenever you were struck, they would say,



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threats but she refused to answer. I never found out what she did, if anything, that resulted in my being placed in care but I always found these comments unsettling.

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Supervision of Children (continued)

Children were discouraged from answering the door to callers.

Report of the Social Work Advisory Group - December 1981Action on recommendations

1. The Committee preferred linoleum and loose rugs for small children. The more senior young people were given carpeted bedrooms.
2. Fire drills were held less frequently and on a random basis.
3. Proceedure described in paragraph 5.4 is incorrect.
4. This situation did not arise owing to **MH 9** serious illness.
5. When advertising for the post of Officer-in-Charge one application was received from a male Deputy Officer-in-Charge who was shown over the Home by the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary. He withdrew before interview.
6. Subsequent vacancies were advertised in the local press and the D.H.S.S. fortnightly bulletin.
7. New Job Descriptions were given to all staff.
8. Attention was given to this recommendation resulting in less domestic involvement by the caring staff.
9. The format of the Staff Meetings was changed and all members of & staff, in turn, presented papers, the topic being decided by the
14. Officer-in-Charge. This was followed by discussion. The children and their needs formed an important part of the meeting.
10. The Management Committee, after due consideration, decided that finance precluded any increase in staffing. The number of children in residence was beginning to decline at this stage.
11. It was the wish of the Committee that staff should continue to be residential.
12. The payment of Sleeping In allowance was implemented.
13. The change in arrangements for the medical examination of care staff was implemented, and expenses borne by the Home.
15. It was found to be impossible to summon the children for meals by means other than the use of a whistle. Assembling outside the dining room was discontinued.
16. After much deliberation by staff and committee, it was decided not to change this arrangement. The children were usually unaware that they had been taken to the toilet.
17. This recommendation was implemented.
18. This recommendation was implemented.
19. This recommendation was implemented.

1           **I wanted to hopefully leave her on good terms.**

2       Q.   One of the other complaints that you make is that you  
3           were punished by being locked in a dark room.

4       **A.   Yes.**

5       Q.   In paragraph 7 of your statement you name an older boy,  
6           and you think that was his name, but you weren't clear  
7           on that, and you thought that he might have been  
8           an altar boy at the church.

9       **A.   Yes.**

10      Q.   Now this was -- this was a Protestant home --

11      **A.   Yes.**

12      Q.   -- run by the Church of Ireland.

13      **A.   Yes.**

14      Q.   And we -- you know that I'm going to be asking you later  
15           about the response that the Irish Church Missions have  
16           put in in respect of what you have said, HIA341.

17      **A.   Yes.**

18      Q.   But I just want to ask you about this particular boy and  
19           why you thought he might have been an altar boy.

20      **A.   Well, he was the one that would take me to the church or**  
21           **wherever he took me, and I just assumed -- well, I know**  
22           **that they were -- they were ministers or they certainly**  
23           **wore the collar of being a minister. So he had no -- he**  
24           **never actually did anything to me, but he was always**  
25           **present.**

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3. Manor house was mixed with boys and girls of all ages. We stayed in rooms which had about four or five to each room. I was beaten a couple of times by staff. I cannot recall their names. On one occasion I was carrying a brick and I dropped it on my toe by accident. A male member of staff hit me around the head for carrying the brick. I later found out that the brick was attached to a rope that was tied to me stopping me from running away. I was also tied to my bed at night. We were beaten as a form of punishment – I think it was the staff's way of disciplining us. After being beaten we were put into cold water baths, I am assuming this was to prevent bruising. If I ever played up the staff threatened that my mother would not come to visit me.
4. I attended [REDACTED] School which was down the road from the home. We went to church every Sunday as the home was run by the Church of Ireland. In the home I felt like an ordinary child as I didn't know anything different
5. My mother married a man called [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1949. She told me years later that after she married she told [REDACTED] about me and they came to Manor House to take me home but she was told that I was adopted by a wealthy family in Dublin. I obtained my school records in 2000, the records show that I was taken out of school for a period of about one month. I believe that this was when my Mother, [REDACTED] and his children went to the home to collect me. My mother did not have any more children, although she became step-mother to [REDACTED] two children and the family continued to live in Belfast, until [REDACTED] retirement when they moved to [REDACTED] in England.
6. I cannot remember what we were told about going to Australia. I do recall older boys in Manor House saying I would come back black because of the sun. I didn't want to go as soon as I heard this. I do not recall being asked by anyone if I wanted to go to Australia.



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seven years of age at this time. It was horrifying the way we were abused by the older children.

12. On a Sunday we were all marched to Christ Church. We were not allowed to enter through the front door; we were sneaked round the side of the Church. When we were in the Church we were not allowed to move. I was not happy when [MH 19] referred to us as, 'children from the orphanage'. I felt we were being discriminated against. I just wanted to be like the other children. I could not understand why we were not allowed to enter the Church through the front doors, it was humiliating. One Sunday, I stood up while the [MH 19] was doing his sermon and I shouted 'Help'. [MH 9] put me into a cellar in the Church. I was then brought back to Manor House, beaten again and thrown into the cellar as further punishment.

13. I have always felt that the Church humiliated me. I cried to [MH 19] and I told him what [MH 9] was doing to me but he did not believe me. On another occasion, [MH 19] slapped me across the head because I had the wrong socks on. He told me that I was a bad girl. When I was punished, I kept asking if I had done anything bad. I felt like I had lost my family and my childhood. I thought that Manor House was run by the Church of Ireland but apparently it was the Church Missionary Society that ran the home.

14. At Christmas, we all received toys. I remember one Christmas, Rolph Harris came to visit Manor House. All of the other children went home at Christmas and I can remember that [MH 8] and I just stayed in the home. I do not have any memories of the Home being inspected. I attended Lisburn Health Centre throughout my time in Manor House. I do not have any memory of a Doctor visiting the home.

15. I had hearing problems when I was a child. I think that I was born deaf in one ear. I had a hearing aid as a child. [MH 9] jumped on the hearing aid



1 I take it from what you have said earlier that your  
2 objection that you were trying to convey to him was you  
3 didn't like the way you were all being lined up and  
4 taken in a crocodile -- you said being marched -- but  
5 made all go together into church?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Was that your --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- complaint to him?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And is that what you meant by saying, "You don't know  
12 what's happening in the house. There's just marching  
13 and standing to attention"?

14 **A. (Nods).**

15 Q. So your complaint was you didn't want to be taken into  
16 the church in this way?

17 **A. No. We shouldn't. We should just have to be like**  
18 **normal wee kids, like, and just -- you know, kids would**  
19 **play or carry on, but we weren't -- we had to be marched**  
20 **up and that was it. I felt discriminated. Like we had**  
21 **to keep our head and everything down. Like, it's -- the**  
22 **church was outrageous to treat us like that, you know.**

23 Q. So was your objection to being made to go to church at  
24 all?

25 **A. Sorry?**

1 Christ Church have been aggrieved somewhat

. Is that correct?

3 A. Yes. I grew up in Christ Church. I attended Central  
4 School, Lisburn. Youngsters from Manor House also  
5 attended the same school, would have been in the same  
6 class. Our church at harvest time, at Christmas time,  
7 we would have encouraged to bring gifts and those would  
8 normally be for Manor House, for the youngsters in Manor  
9 House.

10 With regard to where they sat in the church, I don't  
11 honestly remember, but I do -- I have been a parish  
12 rector and rector of a church that had a residential  
13 grammar school. The children from that school who came  
14 to our church always went in by a particular door, which  
15 wasn't, as it happened, the main door. They had seating  
16 allocated for them in the gallery, the same kind of  
17 thing that seemed to happen in Christ Church.

18 Q. You felt that was just a practice and it was not in any  
19 way designed to denigrate anyone.

20 A. No. I don't think it was meant to belittle the boys and  
21 girls that came from the home.

22 Q. Well, thank you. I have nothing further that I want to  
23 ask.

24 A. Thank you.

25 Q. I am not sure if the Panel Members have any questions

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[REDACTED]. At the weekends, we all attended the Boys Brigade. We went to Christ Church on a Sunday. We were made to go whether we wanted to or not. We had to attend Sunday School as well. I can remember on one occasion, I was dragged to Church as I did not want to go. I held on to the railings as I was being brought up the road; my fingers were prised off the railing and I was dragged into the Church Service. My mother was a religious thinking person but we never went to any Church Service so this was all new to me. I think my parents came to visit us when we were in the home, maybe once or twice. I found the home to be regimented but it was not harsh.

4. I shared a room with my brother. I then recall being moved to another room upstairs in the house. I think there were about six beds in a single room. We never had a television before so when we arrived at the home it was like we had arrived at a posh hotel. It was like paradise having people look after you. We walked around turning the lights on and off. The food in the home was probably better than what we ate before. We were given porridge or cereal for breakfast. If we wanted more food, we could have it. There was a regular cook. I am not sure of her name. There was also a gardener called [REDACTED]. The vegetables that we ate at the home were from the garden. There was a playing field out the back through an opening in the wall and we used to go there to play. There were plenty of games that we could play if the weather was poor. You were left to keep yourself amused. We went to bed each night at approximately 7.30 pm and if you were older you were given an extra hour. I cannot remember the exact time but I do remember that they were strict about bedtime. If it was bedtime, you were sent straight to bed, no matter what you may have been doing or watching on TV.
5. The home was run by female staff. The lady who was in charge was called MH 3 [REDACTED]. I found her approach as a headmistress to be firm but fair. The members of staff in the home were fine to get along with. I can only recall one incident when a member of staff acted inappropriately and she was warned about her behaviour. I think her name was MH 15 [REDACTED]. One of the children had done something and she wanted to find out which one of us did it. She lined us all up and asked each of us one at a time if we had done it. Each

7. Aims and Objectives

7.1 A brief account of the aims and objectives of Manor House Home was given as follows:-

"To provide a stable home in a Christian atmosphere for orphans or children from broken homes. To help children to develop spiritually, physically and intellectually to their full potential and thus equip them as far as is possible to take their place in society."

This formal statement sets out the clear sighted purpose of the Home with its strong emphasis on individual responsibility, striving and achievement.

7.2. We concluded that the goals of the Home are being implemented by a combination of training in social and life skills and through the exhortations of the Matron and her staff. There is an emphasis on prayer and the performance of religious duties combined with a high regard for educational achievement. Adult values of sobriety and industry are inculcated and the social graces are learned and practised by the children. Indeed it was a pleasure to meet children whose good manners would have done credit to many adults. The staff influence is such in the best sense that organisational controls are seldom required.



## ICM STATEMENT REGARDING HIA REF 289 HIA 289

1. HIA 289 (dob [REDACTED]) and his brother, MH 14 (dob [REDACTED]), were placed in Manor House Home (MHH) by the [REDACTED] Welfare authorities on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1965 and were residents in the home until discharged on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1968.
2. Under the 'Remarks' section in the Admissions and Discharge case book, their notes read: *children abandoned by parents. Mother's whereabouts unknown.* There is also a faded pencil note below these admittance remarks, added probably when the children were discharged, that seems to read: *mother and father reconciled* (See Para 2 Appendix 1)
3. HIA 289 makes reference in paragraph 3 of his witness statement (MNH-085) to the church activities connected to the home. The home was set up with the purpose of providing *a stable home in a Christian atmosphere for orphans or children from broken homes. To help them develop spiritually, physically and intellectually to their full potential...* (MNH-10023). Going to the local Church of Ireland church, Christ Church Lisburn, to attend Sunday School and services, as well as availing of children's organisations, such as Church Lads Brigade, was always a normal and regular part of the way the home met its goals.
4. HIA 289 records a positive experience of the routine of the home in paragraph 4 of his statement (MNH-085), noting that he and his brother were not separated on entering the home but shared a room along with others.
5. HIA 289 states in paragraph 5 one incident during his time of staff acting inappropriately (a junior member of staff making the children swear on the Bible that they hadn't done something – see MNH-085-086) and the subsequent reprimand that she received from the home.
6. The junior staff member involved, MH 15, was employed by the home from April 1967, leaving in the summer of 1968 for child care training in Rupert Stanley College. HIA 289 notes that "she was fine the rest of the time"
7. The reprimand which HIA 289 says she received for her inappropriate behaviour bears witness to the fact that MHHMC took seriously any complaints of allegations of abuse received from children resident in the home. For example, in March 1963, the committee acted to dismiss a junior member of staff because her 'behaviour amongst the children was not satisfactory.' (Para 7 Appendix 1)
8. In regard to the sexual abuse allegations in paragraphs 6-10 (MNH-086-097), there is nothing whatsoever in the extant minutes of the home that indicate an operation of a system of 'uncles'.

or abused them (MNH-6008). Therefore **HIA 366** view that the boys bullied her and others because they were bullied by **MH 9** (paragraph 11, MNH-076) could not be true.

27. Regarding church, the SWAG report commends the Home for its clear sighted purpose in its aim *to provide a stable home in a Christian atmosphere for orphans or children from broken homes. To help children to develop spiritually, physically and intellectually to their full potential and thus equip them as far as is possible to take their place in society* (MNH-10023). Bringing up children in the Christian faith was a key component of the Home's care.
28. The SWAG report concluded that the Home was achieving its goals (para 7.2 MNH-10023) and praised the character of the children: *indeed it was a pleasure to meet children whose good manners would have done credit to many adults.*
29. In carrying out its goals, the SWAG report, shows that the Home actively encouraged the children to participate in a wide range of social and physical activities, including attendance at the local church and involvement in its organisations, such as Girl Guides, Church Lads Brigade and Brownies (para 11 MNH-10034). Going to the local church on Sunday was a natural and normal part of the Home's care in pursuance of its aims.
30. Thus, the children were never 'sneaked to church' as **HIA 366** claims (paragraph 12, MNH-079), rather it was a routine part of the Home's activity in fulfilling its purpose.
31. Far from attempting to humiliate the children, the attitude of Christ Church was to prioritize the accommodation of the children on Sundays. Christ Church Lisburn was packed on Sunday mornings in the 1960s and 70s and had three entrances in those days to accommodate the numbers arriving and exiting. The children of the home were saved from the 'hustle and bustle' of the main aisle by entering the church through one of its other smaller entrances, known as the 'Nicholson doors'. The church worked closely with the home in providing mid-week social activities, such as Church Lads Brigade and Girl Guides, welcoming the children of the home into these organisations.
32. We have no records that show that **HIA 366** was allowed to go home with her brother to see her father at the weekend. Because of the Antrim Welfare report that the both herself and her brother were in need of 'protection and control' (MNH-6197), it is highly unlikely that they would have been allowed by the Welfare authorities or Manor House to go home each weekend. As **HIA 366** testifies (paragraph 17, MNH-080), her father was a violent and abusive man.

[Redacted]

2/12/15

(Superintendent ICM)

[Redacted]

Chairman of Trustees, ICM 2/12/15

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the type of brush that you would use on clothes. She beat me with this wooden brush. I think she just picked on me. She hit me that hard that on some days I was going to school black and blue with bruises. I remember on one occasion, I was given porridge with salt in it and I felt sick. I ran behind **MH 10**, the cook, so that **MH 9** would not hit me. **MH 10** was terrified of **MH 9**.

8. **MH 9** kept **MH 8** and me apart. I kept asking for my brother **MH 8** and she would throw me into the cellar with teenagers who were in and around nineteen years of age when I was only six or seven years old. My mother visited Manor House to spend time with me and **MH 9** would not let her see me. On one occasion she hit me hard across the head and I had to go to Lagan Valley Hospital. I can recall that I was crying all the time in Manor House. I was shouting out for help as a six year old child. I even ran to the police station and they returned me to Manor House.
9. I attended [REDACTED] and I used to cry to the teachers. I thought that they would do something to help me but the abuse just kept going on and on. **MH 11**, [REDACTED] used to beat me. I still have a scar on my hand from one of his beatings.
10. **MH 9** used to make me go to her bedroom. She took my clothes off and she made me lie in the bed beside her. She made me do things to her. I did not know about the different parts of the body and I asked her what is up there. She said it was her wee lost forest and she made me do things with the hairbrush. I thought it was normal.
11. I thought the teenagers in the home were members of staff. There was an older boy called **MH 12**; I can also remember the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families. I can recall **MH 9** beating **MH 13**. The older boys bullied us but I think that **MH 9** was bullying them and that is why they then bullied us. If we went into the play room, the bigger children would have locked us in there. We then screamed to be let out. I can recall that on one occasion, I was put into a bath with a nineteen year old. I was only six or

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3. Manor house was mixed with boys and girls of all ages. We stayed in rooms which had about four or five to each room. I was beaten a couple of times by staff. I cannot recall their names. On one occasion I was carrying a brick and I dropped it on my toe by accident. A male member of staff hit me around the head for carrying the brick. I later found out that the brick was attached to a rope that was tied to me stopping me from running away. I was also tied to my bed at night. We were beaten as a form of punishment – I think it was the staff's way of disciplining us. After being beaten we were put into cold water baths, I am assuming this was to prevent bruising. If I ever played up the staff threatened that my mother would not come to visit me.
4. I attended [REDACTED] School which was down the road from the home. We went to church every Sunday as the home was run by the Church of Ireland. In the home I felt like an ordinary child as I didn't know anything different
5. My mother married a man called [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1949. She told me years later that after she married she told [REDACTED] about me and they came to Manor House to take me home but she was told that I was adopted by a wealthy family in Dublin. I obtained my school records in 2000, the records show that I was taken out of school for a period of about one month. I believe that this was when my Mother, [REDACTED] and his children went to the home to collect me. My mother did not have any more children, although she became step-mother to [REDACTED] two children and the family continued to live in Belfast, until [REDACTED] retirement when they moved to [REDACTED] in England.
6. I cannot remember what we were told about going to Australia. I do recall older boys in Manor House saying I would come back black because of the sun. I didn't want to go as soon as I heard this. I do not recall being asked by anyone if I wanted to go to Australia.



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HIA REF: 341

Witness Name: HIA 341

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 341

I, HIA 341 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Lisburn.
2. My mother's name was [REDACTED] and she was twenty years old when I was born. She was a domestic servant. She had me out of wedlock. My father's name does not appear on my birth certificate.

Manor House Home, Lisburn ( May 1941 – November 1950)

3. I was placed in Manor House Home, Lisburn when I was a baby. I can only recall about nine or ten boys in Manor House Home at the time.
4. I recall a lady used to come to visit me in Manor House every Sunday or most Sundays and we would sit on the porch and she would talk to me. When I met my mother in later life she confirmed that she used to visit me.
5. I recall being frequently assaulted in the home in Lisburn. What I found strange was that at times during these assaults the staff would threaten to send me back to my mother. I asked my mother in later life why they would have issued such

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the type of brush that you would use on clothes. She beat me with this wooden brush. I think she just picked on me. She hit me that hard that on some days I was going to school black and blue with bruises. I remember on one occasion, I was given porridge with salt in it and I felt sick. I ran behind **MH 10**, the cook, so that **MH 9** would not hit me. **MH 10** was terrified of **MH 9**.

8. **MH 9** kept **MH 8** and me apart. I kept asking for my brother **MH 8** and she would throw me into the cellar with teenagers who were in and around nineteen years of age when I was only six or seven years old. My mother visited Manor House to spend time with me and **MH 9** would not let her see me. On one occasion she hit me hard across the head and I had to go to Lagan Valley Hospital. I can recall that I was crying all the time in Manor House. I was shouting out for help as a six year old child. I even ran to the police station and they returned me to Manor House.
9. I attended [REDACTED] and I used to cry to the teachers. I thought that they would do something to help me but the abuse just kept going on and on. **MH 11**, [REDACTED] used to beat me. I still have a scar on my hand from one of his beatings.
10. **MH 9** used to make me go to her bedroom. She took my clothes off and she made me lie in the bed beside her. She made me do things to her. I did not know about the different parts of the body and I asked her what is up there. She said it was her wee lost forest and she made me do things with the hairbrush. I thought it was normal.
11. I thought the teenagers in the home were members of staff. There was an older boy called **MH 12**; I can also remember the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families. I can recall **MH 9** beating **MH 13**. The older boys bullied us but I think that **MH 9** was bullying them and that is why they then bullied us. If we went into the play room, the bigger children would have locked us in there. We then screamed to be let out. I can recall that on one occasion, I was put into a bath with a nineteen year old. I was only six or

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18. Therefore, on this version of events, the abusive actions and treatment she alleges she received from **MH 9** when Rolf Harris is alleged to have visited could not in fact have happened in the Manor House Home, because neither **HIA 366** nor Rolf Harris are recorded to have been in the home between 1966 and 1969. On this version of events, it is clear that **MH 9** could not have abused **HIA 366** as described in both newspaper stories in MNH-2558-2559.
19. We note the correct dates of **HIA 366** residency in the home (MNH-077), but also note that she insists three times in her witness statement (paragraphs 8 & 11, MNH-078-079) that the alleged abuse took place while she was 'six or seven years old.'
20. **MH 9** could not therefore have abused her as she describes in her witness statement since **HIA 366** was not in Manor House Home as a six year old. Rather, she entered the home as a 9 year old in 1972.
21. Since **HIA 366** maintains repeatedly both in the newspaper articles and in her witness statement that the alleged abuse took place when she was six or seven, none of the alleged abuse by **MH 9** in the witness statement could have taken place.
22. **HIA 366** claims (paragraph 6, MNH-078) that **MH 9** kept her brother and herself apart and prevented her mother from seeing her. But the home did not have a policy of separating siblings, who sometimes made up the majority proportion of residents. In any case, separation of siblings would have been impossible in one small building with a number of around 20 residents.
23. Furthermore, the minute books over the years record, and the SWAG report shows, that parents were able to visit their children in the home at any time (MNH-10028).
24. Whilst corporal punishment was used by **MH 9**, who made the necessary returns to the Welfare services (MNH-2540-2543), the minutes and the SWAG report (paragraph 8.9, MNH10027) indicate that the other forms of control and sanction were more often used; for example, children being sent to their bedroom for a time for minor misconduct; being denied an outing for more serious misconduct; making contributions from pocket money for breakages; and on rare occasions being spoken to by a member of the management committee.
25. As an example of how **MH 9** handled more serious misconduct, the minutes of the June 1970 management committee show (Para 25 Appendix 1), she did not resort to the kind of rough treatment of the children alleged by **HIA 366** against herself or the boys (paragraph 11, MNH-078).
26. Indeed, one of the boys named by **MH 9** **MH 12** was regarded as a bully by other boys in the home as per the police records (MNH-6001-182), but none of the boys involved in the sexual bullying of other boys make the claim that **HIA 366** does, that the staff bullied



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saw all of the other children with their mothers and fathers. All three of us started to cry and ask where our mother and father were.

4. We all had a bad experience in this home. The staff didn't change us enough. Even when we were put to bed we were not changed. I can recall that I cried an awful lot during my time there. There was a play room and the mothers would accompany their children when they were in the play room. I remember on one occasion that there was a gunman in the home and we all had to hide. This is an incident that I remember to this day. I now know that this home was for battered wives and their children.

**Manor House (08.12.1972 to 21.12.1973)**

5. I was put into Manor House with MH 8. I was upset because I could not find my sister, [REDACTED]. I did not know where she went to after Mayflower House. The home had bars on the windows. It was like a prison. We each had to wear a uniform. We were made to march and we had to keep our heads down. We used to attend a club on a Monday night and on certain Saturday nights we went on a bus run.
6. The canteen was full of cockroaches and it was in a very old building. [REDACTED] MH 9, who worked in the home, was like a Sergeant Major. I kept being sick and [REDACTED] MH 9 would have hit me. I used to hide under the table but she would have got me and pulled me by the ear. I had been diagnosed as suffering from coeliac disease when I was in Lissue. I was given the wrong type of food in Manor House and this is why I was always sick. I have always wanted to know why they did not have my medical records which should have showed that I had coeliac disease. When I was being fed the wrong food, my stomach would become very swollen. I had to attend the hospital to get my stomach re-trained to stop the swelling.
7. [REDACTED] MH 9 was a big lump of a woman and we were all terrified of her. She wore a uniform. She made us march. She would have pulled us by the ear and we would have been squealing. She always had a wooden brush, like

ICM STATEMENT REGARDING HIA REF 366 **HIA 366**

1. **HIA 366** along with her brother **MH 8** were admitted to the Manor House Home (MHH) on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1972 and discharged 21<sup>st</sup> December 1973 (Para 1 Appendix 1). A letter from Antrim Welfare (Para 1 Appendix 2) delivered two case history forms (Para 1 Appendix 3) for them but says that *medical cards and Birth Certificates will also be given to the home when obtained from the mother*. The Home has no record or minute of the medical cards and birth certificates subsequently being obtained from the mother or delivered to the MHH.
2. Notes in the remarks column of MHH Admittance and Discharge casebook (see Para 1 Appendix 1 above) add: *parents separated. Mother has been in mental hospital (and faded) – other men*.
3. An extant record (Para 2 Appendix 1) indicates that both **MH 8** and **HIA 366** were taken from the home by their father on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1973.
4. MHH was not a juvenile detention centre. The reason for bars to be fitted to the windows was originally from a request to the committee by Matron in March 1960 to prevent small children climbing on the window sill and falling (Para 4 Appendix 1). In the November 1967 minutes, it was reported that the Welfare authorities' inspection pointed out the need for bars for the nursery windows (Para 4 Appendix 2).
5. In regard to **HIA 366** statement that they had to wear a uniform, no uniforms other than school and Girls' organizations in the church were provided for the children. Children wore their own casual clothes and SWAG report (MNH-10026) indicates that the children were generously provided for with four sets of clothing (Sunday clothes, school uniform, 'going out' clothes, and play clothes).
6. In regard to 'marching', the SWAG Report indicates there was a high frequency of fire drills (MNH-10014).
7. According to the minutes, the home from time to time had to deal with an infestation of cockroaches. A minute from the October 1963 committee meeting reports the basement (and not the canteen) as the troublesome area and that the Matron was to contact the Sanitary Inspector (Para 7 Appendix 1). The next recorded outbreak was mentioned in the September 1970 minutes, the Public Health Services being informed (Para 7 Appendix 2) and immediate action taken to eradicate them (Para 7 Appendix 3).
8. In regard to **HIA 366** query (para 6 MNH-077) as to why she was given the wrong food and why the home did not have her medical notes, the letter from the Antrim Welfare officer at the time of her admittance to the home, makes it clear that they had not yet obtained her medical cards from her mother and so had not been able to pass anything to the home (see

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1 Q. Did they see ...?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And, what, that was acceptable --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in relation to that?

6 When you were put into the cellar as a punishment,  
7 can you remember how long you would stay, be kept in the  
8 cellar?

9 **A. I stayed there for hours and a couple of days even, but,**  
10 **you know, I got up and got my lunch and then put back.**  
11 **I only took it it was just punishment and that was it.**

12 Q. Okay, but you are saying that you would actually for  
13 a number of days -- be brought up for your food and to  
14 go to bed presumably --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- be kept in a ...?

17 **A. Kept in a cellar.**

18 Q. Just finally can I ask: can you remember when you came  
19 into the home was there any type of medical at that  
20 time?

21 **A. (Shakes head).**

22 Q. None. So you didn't see a doctor when you arrived in or  
23 ...?

24 **A. No, no, no.**

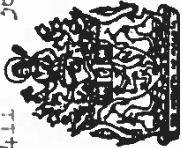
25 Q. There was none there. Okay. Thanks, HIA366.



## ANTRIM COUNTY WELFARE COMMITTEE

Tel. No. Lisburn 77411 36 Castle Street,

Lisburn.



11th December, 1972.

Rev. G. G. Thompson, B.A.,  
Irish Church Missions,  
20 Donegall Square East,  
Belfast.

*Can't appear x*  
*2*

Dear Mr. Thompson,

re HIA 366 and [REDACTED] MH 8

Enclosed are Case History Forms in respect of the above-named children who were admitted to the Manor House Home on the 9th instant. Copies of these have been given to the home.

Medical Cards and Birth Certificates will also be given to the home when obtained from the mother.

Yours sincerely,

Divisional Welfare Officer.2 Incls.  
mc/.

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[REDACTED]. At the weekends, we all attended the Boys Brigade. We went to Christ Church on a Sunday. We were made to go whether we wanted to or not. We had to attend Sunday School as well. I can remember on one occasion, I was dragged to Church as I did not want to go. I held on to the railings as I was being brought up the road; my fingers were prised off the railing and I was dragged into the Church Service. My mother was a religious thinking person but we never went to any Church Service so this was all new to me. I think my parents came to visit us when we were in the home, maybe once or twice. I found the home to be regimented but it was not harsh.

4. I shared a room with my brother. I then recall being moved to another room upstairs in the house. I think there were about six beds in a single room. We never had a television before so when we arrived at the home it was like we had arrived at a posh hotel. It was like paradise having people look after you. We walked around turning the lights on and off. The food in the home was probably better than what we ate before. We were given porridge or cereal for breakfast. If we wanted more food, we could have it. There was a regular cook. I am not sure of her name. There was also a gardener called [REDACTED]. The vegetables that we ate at the home were from the garden. There was a playing field out the back through an opening in the wall and we used to go there to play. There were plenty of games that we could play if the weather was poor. You were left to keep yourself amused. We went to bed each night at approximately 7.30 pm and if you were older you were given an extra hour. I cannot remember the exact time but I do remember that they were strict about bedtime. If it was bedtime, you were sent straight to bed, no matter what you may have been doing or watching on TV.
5. The home was run by female staff. The lady who was in charge was called MH 3 [REDACTED]. I found her approach as a headmistress to be firm but fair. The members of staff in the home were fine to get along with. I can only recall one incident when a member of staff acted inappropriately and she was warned about her behaviour. I think her name was MH 15 [REDACTED]. One of the children had done something and she wanted to find out which one of us did it. She lined us all up and asked each of us one at a time if we had done it. Each