

PRIVATE

De La Salle, Rubane Home Kircubbin (25/8/68 - 4/6/72)

22. I was transferred Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 1968 from Nazareth Lodge to Rubane Boys Home upon reaching the age of eleven. Rubane was under authority of the De La Salle Brothers. I was among fourteen boys who went that year, it was a new beginning. Soon after we were given numbers and that was used for various other purposes primary for washing clothes but also for school and Sunday morning assembly.
23. Having arrived on Sunday afternoon I and others were escorted to a dormitory on the ground floor where this would be my sleeping quarters for the foreseeable future. It was prior to going to bed on my first night, I think about 9.30pm I was exchanging my thoughts with other boys when **BR 3** came in and without prior warning struck out and slap me so hard across my face. His response was to tell me "you are not in Nazareth Lodge now" The blow lifted me off my feet, I was somewhat astounded given I had left Nazareth Lodge some hours ago; I thought my days of abuse was over. However so wrong was I. This was the only time **BR 3** ever struck-out at me; it was a one off isolated incident. We struck a mutual understanding and respect from there on in, we never had any problems. He was much liked by other lads and was someone you could talk too.
24. The first three months we were attached to the main house but subsequently all fourteen of us would be placed in the newly purpose built chalets. I was attached to chalet **DL 134** under the care of **DL 134** & **DL 135** and **BR 13**. Each chalet would contain 3 bed rooms with four occupants to each room along with two single bed rooms. These enable fourteen children to be housed and lived in a family environment. In my dormitory I shared with other boys who came down with me 25<sup>th</sup> August 1968, namely **DL 94**, **HIA 132** and **HIA 56**. I longed for the day I would have a single room, purely to have some privacy.
25. **DL 134, DL 135** were the first house parents in chalet **DL 134** and my time there was one of great difficulty in many ways. Sadly I endured almost two years of

*telling lies." HIA 252 went onto say, "He as good as called me a liar. He said those were religious men and they wouldn't do that, and he kept going on talking and shouting at me for maybe twenty minutes or more, you know. That scared me off altogether from ever telling anybody else about it, because he didn't believe me, and I thought — I suppose even when I got a bit older, I thought who else was going to believe me, you know."<sup>41</sup>*

Unfortunately, HIA 252's social services file has not been found and this means it is not possible to see what, if anything, was recorded about this conversation between HIA 252 and **DL 411** in 1958 and what steps, if any, were taken by **DL 411** and Fermanagh Welfare Authority. The HSCB considers, however, that it likely that HIA 25 choose to confide in **DL 411** because he had formed a trusting relationship with him but, if the Applicant's evidence about **DL 411** response to his disclosure is as accurate, the HSCB accepts that the social worker's response was inappropriate and ought to have been properly investigated and reported to the police.

- 4.2.2. **HIA 225:** HIA 225 recalls being strapped and then hit across his left ear by BR 4, such to knock him off his chair, when he was 14 and half years old in March 1971. The documentation shows that HIA 225 told his social worker about this who recorded the following: *"As this was the only occasion when BR4 had 'picked on him', I advised HIA225 to ignore the incident unless BR4 continued to punish him unjustly, whereupon he should discuss the situation with BR6. This plan seemed to satisfy him."*

The HSCB's view is that what HIA 225 describes amounts to serious physical abuse. The social worker recorded the incident and appears to have agreed a plan with HIA 225, which worked in that HIA 225

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<sup>41</sup> See transcript for Day 55, page 173, lines 9-18



14. In respect of paragraph 36: The Order acknowledges HIA 16's account of the trips to Glenariff as it equates with surviving Brothers' experiences and corroborates the stories heard about Glenariffe by HIA 19. The [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] who accompanied the boys from Rubane and a local [REDACTED] woman.
15. In respect of paragraph 37: [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED]'s diaries demonstrate that the boys went to the cinema much more regularly, at times almost every weekend. Going to the cinema was an option. The boys could choose to go to the Playhall or go for a walk with [REDACTED] BR 13 [REDACTED].
16. In respect of paragraph 38: HIA 16 is mistaken. There were no stone floors in Rubane. The boys may have been asked to wax wooden floors in their Chalet TV room. The Order does not believe that [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED] was attached to Chalet [REDACTED] at any stage.
17. In respect of paragraph 39: See paragraph 10 above. [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED]'s Diary records for 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April 1971 'Home at 8pm.. [REDACTED] BR 4 [REDACTED] in very bad form. A lot of spirits taken from downstairs. [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED] drunk. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HIA 21 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HIA 511, [REDACTED] involved — drunk and smashed bottles in the woods. [REDACTED] BR 4 [REDACTED] goes to town on them. Comes over to Chalet to punish boys.' [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] recalls this incident, how he had returned from Retreat and saw HIA 16 staggering up the field. [REDACTED] SR 32 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] had to put him to bed. [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED] recalls no marks on HIA 16. [REDACTED] HIA 21 [REDACTED] [HIA 21] was also involved and may be able to add more.
18. In respect of paragraph 40: The Order acknowledges that HIA 16 never saw any or heard of any sexual abuse by Brothers. HIA 16 was in the home for nearly 4 years with Br [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED] and others for shorter periods of time. His account in this regard is similar to HIA 19 and HIA 110. However, the Inquiry may want to note that HIA 16 does appear to have made an allegation of sexual assault against [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] in the mid 1990s.
19. Further in respect of paragraph 40: The Order acknowledges that it was aware of the boys being involved in sexual activity amongst themselves. The Brothers took action when such activity was uncovered and this has and will be dealt with in separate statements. In particular in respect of HIA 16 [REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED]'s Diary records;

'28<sup>th</sup> July 1970 — questioned [REDACTED] DL 95 [REDACTED] on activities in his room [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED], A [REDACTED] DL 301 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] DL 133 [REDACTED]

29<sup>th</sup> July 1970 — questioned [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] DL 301 [REDACTED]

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1971 — [REDACTED] HIA 19 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] DL 95 [REDACTED] & ? down in old hut until 7.40

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1971 — Enquiry with [REDACTED] DL 94 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HIA 16 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HIA 56 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] DL 271 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BR 2 [REDACTED]'s recollection is that HIA 16 denied any wrongdoing.

1       you would slide up and down and as punishment when you  
2       were cleaning you had to use a toothbrush. Was this on  
3       the floors that you had to use the toothbrush?

4       **A. No, round the sinks and taps and things like that.**

5       Q. And you say that [REDACTED] even cleaned the cooker at home  
6       long after he'd left Rubane --

7       **A. That's right.**

8       Q. -- in this fashion. You talk at paragraph 21 about the  
9       food that you received in Rubane and you say that you  
10      were extremely under-nourished when you left Rubane.  
11      What you ate in the morning was watery porridge. In the  
12      evening you remember jam and bread. On a Sunday if you  
13      weren't in trouble, you got soda bread dipped in  
14      dripping and you got a sausage. You talk about the tuck  
15      shop, where you could buy things, but you rarely did,  
16      because you lost your pocket money as a result of  
17      punishments. You can't remember ever eating dinner,  
18      although you remember peeling potatoes.

19           Now the Order would say that there was nothing wrong  
20      with the food that they were providing, that you had  
21      three meals a day, and that the Brothers ate the same  
22      food as you did.

23      **A. I wouldn't think that, because even before I went in**  
24      **there it was just after the war. There was rationing at**  
25      **times. My mother had rationing coupons when we went in**



Mon 7 & Tues 8th

Mon: Allowed boys up to see 'Movie Macabre'  
 Scene over in for chalet. J. Smith in at 7.30  
 to give him out. Electrolux off from 5 till 7.30  
 Took boys down road for walk. [redacted]  
 gets him out. In team - took box of chocolates  
 from Sister's room. Starts from far side 7.  
 Bradley wouldn't go down for hair cut on top of  
 stairs shouting at each other. Went out. Sent  
 [redacted] down. [redacted] in bed - Also sent him  
 down. [redacted] from upstairs - Went upstairs.  
 [redacted] & [redacted] in toilets. [redacted] coming - [redacted]  
 over him. "This can't go on" [redacted] apologises for  
 using bad language & calling names. Went to bed.  
 Talked to [redacted] - the usual. [redacted]  
 accuses our boys of knocking at doors.  
 [redacted] - least of Immaculate Conception. [redacted] in  
 at dinner - Worked out new pitch, Horse v. Chalet.  
 [redacted] well on - Boys in bed at 7.30 - Party  
 for [redacted]

FEBRUARY 1972

4 FRIDAY

WEEK 6 - 35-331

**DL 474** burns herself in the kitchen. The gas oven seems to have been on during the night lit match & explosion. [redacted] maintenance man calls. Nothing seriously wrong. [redacted] calls in for cup of tea at 3 let [redacted] not to go out today. [redacted] dirts himself - **DL 115** tells him to wash his underwear. Blows his top. Language abusive in the extreme. Ran down the avenue. Came back. Went over to chat after supper and gave him three slaps. Told him he could go if he liked. "no - bus".

5 SATURDAY

R 8:34 S 5:56

WEEK 6 - 36-330

[redacted] goes off in the morning. Phoned [redacted] Could not get through to Melfan. **BR 29** hits [redacted] in the dining hall. I forbid him to go to the baths - while waiting for [redacted] in his hand to brain [redacted] **BR 20** takes boy to baths. Wet evening [redacted] arrives at 5.00 while I am playing Badminton.

I feel rotten - what the reason? Probably on account of the [redacted] episodes.

APRIL 1972

17 MONDAY

WEEK 17 - 108-258

Sent off letter to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for an interview - Dr. Products  
the Falls Rd. - Shooting + hijacking.

BR 29

chibbs a few of the boys  
at line up - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] return from West after Supper.

I take boys myself - talk about activities  
down the road. - [REDACTED] - Had  
interview with [REDACTED] DL 95returns with [REDACTED]  
at 9.00 - got him in Mitchell - 6 slaps.  
Brought back.

18 TUESDAY

WEEK 17 - 109-257

Ring from [REDACTED] BR 6 at 6.20 - heard back  
don't hang - [REDACTED] gone again - got up  
and scanned the roads until 7.15 - No  
sign of him - Rang his mother at 9.15  
Had I arrived home. Informed [REDACTED]- Rang back to say she was staying at  
home. - Seeing a psychologist - [REDACTED] in the  
afternoon 2.00 PM. Had to leave class - Discussed[REDACTED] - Rang to Cravenon in June, Rang + Rang,  
here or told her about [REDACTED]took line up at 7.00 - Quite a few boys not  
present. only 8 boys for [REDACTED]in a huff because [REDACTED] beat him. - Demanded  
to get off him.



APRIL 1972

**21 FRIDAY** - Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II

WEEK 17 - 112-254

13 Boys go out for week and  
 Went round cholebo as usual  
 for shot while Sidris - and  
 Friday evening as usual.  
 went to bed early.

DL 115

**22 SATURDAY**

R 5-50 S 8-09

WEEK 17 - 113-253

Good Day - In bad form. Maybe because  
 of [redacted] announcement. **BR 29**  
 were with little **DL 243** shouting at  
 him in old T.T. room about sticking a  
 brick down the toilet - on [redacted] word.  
 Came crying to me - **BR 29** beat him  
 again for reporting to me. - Stupid man.  
 [redacted] bring some boys over  
 No baths - Vanguard meeting in N. Bds.  
 Bo [redacted] goes over to D. Patrick for initial  
 Sports meeting.  
 Over to [redacted] chalit for supervisor.

JUNE 1972

9 FRIDAY

WEEK 24 - 161-205

BR 29

BR 20

DL 65

beat up in boys  
charging room at 5.30.

Trouble in Swimming Pool - this morning - pair  
of purple socks stolen & locker forced. [redacted]  
admits taking sock thought they  
were another boys. Five men call  
at three but go again - [redacted]  
had been here. [redacted] [redacted]  
at 8.00 P.M. [redacted] BR 4 [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] poses a remark about  
"when are you taking up residence here?"  
I said "who me?" - "no" [redacted] BR 4 [redacted]  
He's moving in as soon as [redacted] has  
cleared up" "Oh I didn't hear about that"

10 SATURDAY

Says 9.44  9.17 Say no more. WEEK 24 - 162-204

Went down to Portaferry to get wood  
to fix up old T. & Room - Brought  
[redacted] with me. Got it fixed by  
12.00 & not too bad. [redacted] at 12.00

Dinner - [redacted] BR 20 [redacted] BR 29 [redacted]  
rather grouchy mixed this last couple of  
days. [redacted] BR 4 [redacted] takes boys to fill.

DL 65 [redacted] abroad & back into  
shop & steal a camera. Phone - [redacted] DL 65

in [redacted] St. at 9.00 - Ray. O'Leary  
collect in morning - Cut field from 5.00  
until 9.00 Washed hair - then phone  
from police - St. Montgomery

- 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – [REDACTED] not back 'marked by **SR 57** [his social worker and doctor involved]

In passing I note that two of these boys, namely [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] felt comfortable coming to me to report the incidents.

45. I note that I submitted that at times difficult boys had to be restrained by physical force. This would always have been 'as a last resort' but we did have some children with very severe problems. We tried were possible to manage these boys in the House, as opposed to the Chalets, so that they could be more closely supervised. My diaries will reveal examples of houseparents asking for me to remove children because of disciplinary issues. It should not be forgotten that many children were sent to us by the Welfare Boards because they could be more closely supervised and controlled in Rubane. These were boys who were outside the control of their own parents. The Welfare Authorities liked the fact that we had a school onsite and the impression I had was that they felt the boys would get better schooling and discipline in the Home than they would elsewhere. By no means am I condoning physical abuse but strict discipline and control was expected from the Home. Reports and letters from Welfare Boards, Probation etc would regularly have referred to the desire to send a boy to Rubane where he could be more closely supervised.

46. Notwithstanding my view that physical restraint and discipline was required at times I did not condone acts of physical aggression on the boys. My diary for 1972 demonstrates that I challenged **BR 29** [REDACTED] about his aggressiveness towards the boys and indeed was instrumental in preventing him obtaining his vows and becoming a full Brother. My Diary records;

- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1972 – 'Had a few words about corp punishment with **BR 29** Not very satisfactory... **BR 3** has a few words with **BR 29**
- 27<sup>th</sup> April 1972 – 'Phoned [REDACTED] ...mentioned **BR 29** omitted deliberately from list of Brothers going on courses.'
- 28<sup>th</sup> June 1972 – Had a long chat with **BR 29** this morning about 1 hour. Probably will go but won't go without an explanation from [REDACTED]
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 1972 – **BR 29** leaves today.



47. I was also instrumental in the Rubane Community of 'professed Brothers' preventing a number of other young Brothers from obtaining their final vows as I considered them unsuitable. In addition to [REDACTED] BR 29 [REDACTED] I recall 'recommending' to my Community Brothers and the then Provincial that neither [REDACTED] DL 525 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] BR 20 [REDACTED] were suitable for working in Kircubbin. There was nothing particular untoward about them or the recommendation but I simply noted that they had poor relationships with the boys and didn't feel they were able to manage the role properly. I note my diary does indicate that [REDACTED] BR 20 [REDACTED] was involved in the [REDACTED] DL 65 [REDACTED] incident on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1972. We were acutely short of staff and additional Brothers would have been very welcome but I was not prepared to allow any of these 3 Brothers to remain on staff at Rubane.
48. [REDACTED] resigned in June 1974. I spoke to [REDACTED] about his inappropriate behaviour and as [REDACTED] was beyond retirement age, I also suggested to her she should consider retirement. They were quite defensive initially but agreed with me and resigned. There was also another reason why I thought it was absolutely necessary that they should leave the Home. There was a serious incident in which the Police and army were involved and in which [REDACTED] were implicated. Their continued presence could have serious consequences for everyone in the Home.
49. The Home inherited a massive debt to the Bank and the Diocese and which had increased dramatically due to the extension and investment in the Home in 1968/69. It was seriously under funded and the local Bank Manager, on one occasion, called me in and told me that he could no longer honour my cheques. As a result, I was forced to meet with officials from the Department of Health and Social Services and it was agreed that a request be made to increase the maintenance fee from the Social Services Boards from £28.00 to £35.00. It was barely adequate and was below the maintenance per capita provision for Welfare Homes and I believe other voluntary Homes in N. Ireland. Financial problems continued throughout my period as Director. At one point, in 1973, it was suggested to me by Mr Sterling that our financial problems would be solved by our agreement to allow the facility to be turned into a Junior Training School ('junior Maze'), a prison essentially. In my view it was only after 1980, that the

NOVEMBER 1976

8 MONDAY  
WEEK 46 1313-53

1976 NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 10  
WEEK 46 215-51

at [redacted] about ago  
after dinner - returned by Graydon  
R.U.C. - threatened to return again.  
[redacted] calls at 4.30  
+ spends an hour with [redacted]  
Down to make supper for boys -  
Ch. 4.  
Also took them for TV - football  
netted TV. - Ireland & Belgium 2

9 TUESDAY  
WEEK 46 314-52

THURSDAY 11  
WEEK 46 318-60

Report from [redacted] to [redacted] after Mon.  
parted up to see them after dinner - nothing  
definite - only remarks - pointed out the  
danger of taking action without firm  
information - advised me to leave it until  
he might obtain further info.  
[redacted] advised.  
[redacted] return at supper  
time - took boy for Shaven - [redacted] seen  
changing clothes - [redacted]  
a little more settled.  
DL 279 reported under influence.

DL 279

BR 3

DL 279

NOVEMBER 1976

29 MONDAY  
WEEK 49 - 334-32

[redacted] took for bag down to P. ferry for haircuts at 2.15. Back at 4.00. [redacted] grip up to Art Exhibition in Belfast with form 5.  
[redacted] BR 6 and myself see at 7.30 - Tell him about the rumors that we have been concerned - Asked for his resignation - Gave him 24 hours to discuss it with [redacted] Said he would give it, - Shook hands at 8.00 and - Thought he was going to hold out - Denied he was going to father - Admitted that he had been with her & that [redacted] had heard stories.  
Reasonably Satisfied

30 TUESDAY - St Andrew  
WEEK 49 - 335-31

[redacted] hands in his note of resignation after supper. Says that [redacted] will be over with out [redacted] This is surprising, she does not come on [redacted]

DL 279

BR 6

1976 DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1  
WEEK 49 - 335-30

[redacted] calls over - the morning to requests to stay on in her post - fears. it might be better to reflect on it for a while - difficulties in looking after Chait & Chris without support of his husband. Not satisfactory. I keep off without gossip. Said she pointed out also that my first-coming must be the bag, but felt sympathetic towards her.

DL 279

Down to P. ferry for film on 'Gerona' with

BR 6

THURSDAY 2  
WEEK 49 - 337-09

[redacted] hands in his note of resignation after supper. Says that [redacted] will be over with out [redacted] This is surprising, she does not come on [redacted]

DL 279



## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] DL 85

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 13 day of June 1995

J DEVLIN DC  
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

[REDACTED] DL 85

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am known as [REDACTED] DL 85. I was born in [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] of

[REDACTED] When I was ten years old I was put into the Good Shepherd Convent because my parents split up and my mother was unable to cope. I stayed there for around eight months and was then moved to the De La Salle Home, Kircubbin. Nothing happened to me while I was there. My sister [REDACTED] was also in the Good Shepherd. She stayed there until she was sixteen. When I went to De La Salle I lived in Chalet [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] DL 11 and [REDACTED] DL 12 were the house parents. Brother [REDACTED] BR 2 was in [REDACTED] at the start and then Brother [REDACTED] BR 1 [REDACTED] Nothing happened to me while I was there other than getting the odd slap on the head for not doing what I was told. Some of the Brothers were quite strict. I can remember a few incidents when other boys were severely treated. A fellow called [REDACTED] DL 121 was in the PT room one day. He went to go to the toilet without asking permission. The [REDACTED] teacher who was called [REDACTED] DL 149 he was from [REDACTED] tried to stop [REDACTED] DL 121 from leaving. [REDACTED] DL 121 tried to walk on and [REDACTED] DL 149 punched him in the face. There was a scuffle between them and the boys broke it up. I can remember another time being in the changing rooms when [REDACTED] BR 77 came in. [REDACTED] BR 3 who

behaved in the Chalet. I don't recall an issue regarding shoes. **HIA 25** was not in my Chalet in 1982. I don't recall an issue regarding a football shirt. *JS*

With reference to **HIA 25** statement. Paragraph 24. I don't recall anyone by the name of **HIA 25** working or visiting Rubane. Visits to home or other venues were the domain of Social Services. I don't recall **HIA 25** ever visiting or staying with anyone other than extended family. *JS*

With reference to **HIA 25** statement. Paragraph 27. I don't recall any discussion with my former wife regarding an incident between **HIA 25** and anyone by the name of **HIA 25**. *JS*

With reference to **HIA 25** statement. Paragraph 38. I don't recall any incident between **HIA 25** and **DL 149**. I don't recall **HIA 25** coming to me with a black eye or a busted nose. I think if this had happened I would have remembered it and the matter would have been taken further, also **HIA 25** would have been taken to hospital and a record would have been kept. I would also have insisted that the matter was investigated. I don't recall ever having a conversation with **BR 18** regarding **HIA 25**. *JS*

2. With reference to **HIA 18** statement. Paragraph 13. I vaguely recall an incident involving **HIA 18** and **BR 18** but I don't believe the incident was as **HIA 18** describes it. One lunchtime, (I can't recall a date.) **HIA 18** came to the Chalet crying with blood on his face. I asked him what happened and he stated that **BR 18** had hit him. I went across to the House where the Brothers lived and confronted **BR 18** in the corridor. I asked him if he had hit **HIA 18** he didn't reply. I said that if he ever hit one of my boys again he would have me to answer to. The Principle came out of the Brother's dining room to see what the fuss was about. I can't recall who was Principal at the time, whether it was **BR 1** or **BR 2**. I informed him what had happened and he said leave it with me. I recall informing him that if anything like this happened again I would inform the authorities and if **HIA 18** wished to take the matter further I would back him one hundred percent. I returned to the Chalet and spoke to **HIA 18** who by then had been cleaned up. (He had a small cut on his lip). He stated that he did not wish to take the matter further. I informed him that should he change his mind I would be there for him. *JS*

With reference to **HIA 18** statement. Paragraph 21. I did state that I did not want my boys working on the farm during the week when they should be in school. I spoke to **HIA 18**. *JS*



## MASTER TAPE T0406687A

DL 81

OK. What do you think would have been more realistic.

I think slaps.

And that would have been done on a corporal punishment method.

To the best of my knowledge yes.

As far as you're aware.

Yeah, there was just that one Brother that was notorious for hitting, giving, for giving the boys a punch.

And that was

BR 18

And as far as I'm aware (inaudible)

Yeah, I, I don't know.

OK. Em do you remember, I I know you don't really remember [REDACTED]  
Do you remember any incident that, in the Chalet involving you and the boys that turned into a near riot.

Only that one that I'm talking about, [REDACTED]

Right, OK. Well what I'll do is I'll read out what he's saying in his statement. Em and I'll ask you some questions on it.

Ah ah.

There were new [REDACTED] coming and going and one particular one, who the boys didn't get on with was a guy called [REDACTED]

DL 81

Ah ah

So again he's saying the boys didn't get on with you but you had referred to yourself as getting on well with the boys

Ah ah

....and, do you know why he would say that then if he's

I haven't a clue.

OK. Em he says guy [REDACTED] who surprised us when he almost strangled one of the boys from [REDACTED] Do you remember [REDACTED]

DL 81

No.



1           **I suppose that way.**

2   Q. Did you ever hear allegations, rumours, about any other  
3       Brothers being overly physical with the boys? Was there  
4       anyone in particular you remember?

5   **A. No, I don't have any memory of anybody else, no.**

6   Q. You lived for a time in the farmhouse, which obviously  
7       was connected to the farm.

8   **A. Uh-huh.**

9   Q. The farm at the time I think BR18 looked after.

10   **A. Uh-huh.**

11   Q. The Inquiry has heard various pieces of evidence about  
12       him.

13   **A. Uh-huh.**

14   Q. How would you rec... -- can you recollect him? What was  
15       he like?

16   **A. Yes. Well, I just know that he was spoken about that he**  
17       **was sort of a man you didn't sort of mess about with,**  
18       **you know. He was about that -- he was never in the**  
19       **school and he was -- you know, I didn't see much of him,**  
20       **but he just had this reputation that BR18 was a rough**  
21       **kind of a guy that you didn't mess with sort of thing.**  
22       **That's what the boys would say. You'd jump out of his**  
23       **road sort of thing, you know. That's the impression**  
24       **I got, that you just steered round him if he was about,**  
25       **you know. You didn't get in his air space, you know.**

1       you are living when this is happening, the way in which  
2       this type of thing was dealt with was not to be ringing  
3       the police or the Social Services. You spoke to the  
4       Brother and told him to wind his neck in, to use  
5       a colloquial phrase, to not be doing it.

6   **A. They would be the words that I would use. I would have**  
7       **told him, "This is not" -- this was not allowed. "It is**  
8       **not permitted to hit boys like this", but I would not**  
9       **have reported it to the police or the Welfare. If it**  
10       **had been a very serious allegation or a serious**  
11       **complaint, if a boy had been marked in any way,**  
12       **I would -- I would definitely have recorded it and taken**  
13       **it further, but when boys came to me and says, "I was**  
14       **hit by BR18", I would have taken it for granted that he**  
15       **gave them a clout, or a wallop, or a slap or something**  
16       **of that nature, and it was dealt with internally.**

17   **Q. It looks from the records that BR18 came in 1971, so**  
18       **before your -- just as you are becoming the Director of**  
19       **the Community, and it seems he remained there at least**  
20       **until 1980 according to your recollection and according**  
21       **to the Order's records possibly 1986. At no stage --**  
22       **did you raise it with the Provincial, that, "Look, BR18**  
23       **is hitting out here and we have got to get this**  
24       **stopped"?**

25   **A. I cannot remember mentioning his name in particular, but**

1        would be quite serious, but at the time, the times we  
2        were in, '60s and '70s, many teachers -- not so much  
3        care workers I guess -- but for teachers it would be  
4        a common practice almost that they would come along and  
5        give a warm ear to someone or slapped them -- give them  
6        a punch or whatever.

7    Q.   It is not something that was taken to the governing  
8        board. You don't remember -- it is certainly not in  
9        the minutes -- you don't remember ever discussing with  
10       them, "There's a Brother here that's hitting the boys on  
11       occasion"?

12   A.   **No, it was never brought to the governing board. It was**  
13        **dealt with internally on a day-to-day management.**

14   Q.   We will pick that up again in relation to a wider  
15        systems issue whenever we come back Monday week, all  
16        being well. That is HIA73.

17        I will not have to cover the same ground with you,  
18        but DL309 was in the home then between 1972 and 1974.  
19        If we look at 62201, please, he says:

20        "The only thing that ever happened to me was that  
21        I got a bad beating from BR18. I was waiting for BR2  
22        outside the main door of Rubane House. BR18 arrived and  
23        for no reason he became abusive towards me. I spoke  
24        back to him. I wasn't cheeky or anything. I just told  
25        him that I was waiting to get dinner money from BR2. He



improvements in the standard of child care that we are trying to encourage in this and all the other children's homes in the Province.

The second area of concern related to the person in charge of Chalet [redacted] who also acted as [redacted]. It was alleged that he had a drink problem and that he was frequently on duty in an intoxicated state.

**BR 2** [redacted] agreed that the member of staff had started to drink following a fire that had been started by two boys and which destroyed the hayshed and its contents. He was emphatic, however, that this man had never been allowed to go on duty while under the influence of alcohol. As soon as the problem became apparent arrangements were made for him to be transferred to another of the De La Salle Order's committees and he has not been employed at Rubane since the beginning of [redacted]. In my opinion the Brothers dealt with this matter responsibly and expeditiously in order to avoid any risks to the boys.

I am sure that you would agree that, while there can be room for improvement in the standards of child care in this Home, as in many others both statutory and voluntary, the practices complained of did not represent a serious threat to either the safety or the welfare of the boys. In my opinion there is now no reason for your Board to ..... an <sup>AA</sup> ~~Engo~~ on the admission of boys to Rubane. Social workers who have the responsibility for children whom they consider would benefit from the type of treatment and regime that is offered by the Home should receive referrals.

I have noted your request for a copy of the Social Work Advisory Group's report on its inspection of the Rubane to be sent to your Board and I appreciate your reason for asking for it. Nevertheless, an assurance was given to the managers of all the voluntary homes that our inspection reports would be treated as confidential. It would not be proper therefore for me to accede without the agreement of the Management Committee and I shall ask the Chairman to consider your request.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Rev. Peter McCann, Chairman of the Management Committee, and the Directors of Social Services of the other three Boards.

**Yours Sincerely**

[Redacted signature block]

30. As stated above, there were seventy five boys in the Home in 1964. Thirty had come from Nazareth Lodge, thirty one committed by Welfare Authorities; six sponsored by Education Committees and two from Hospitals Special Care. Ten years later, in 1974, there were sixty three boys in the Home none of whom had come from Nazareth Lodge. The following list illustrates the breakdown by the various Boards:

Eastern Health and Social Services Board .....	41 boys
Southern " " " " " .....	7 boys
Western " " " " " .....	6 boys
Northern " " " " " .....	5 boys
S.E. Education and Library Board .....	3 boys
S. " " " " " .....	1 boy.

31. The majority of these boys were subjects of Fit Person Orders or admitted on a voluntary basis through Welfare Committees or Social Services. Their length of stay in the Home ranged from a few days to three or four years and the official reasons were many and varied including family difficulties, parents unable to cope, out of control, truancy, and anti social behaviour. Some had to be removed from their family and community, in emergency, as being a danger to themselves and to others and as a result of the social and political turmoil in Northern Ireland. A number of them had come from other children's Homes as being out of control, not attending school and it was felt by the Social Services that Kircubbin provided them with better supervision and a better chance of being at school. It is my view that at that time the Welfare Authorities valued the closer supervision provided at Rubane as being vital to the upbringing of these boys who were 'out of control' in other institutional settings. The majority of the boys who were referred to Kircubbin by the Social Services had completely different life experiences from the boys who came from Nazareth Lodge and who were in institutions all their lives. They brought with them their own particular problems. I am aware now, but wasn't then, that many of the 'Nazareth' boys alleged to have been both physically and sexually bullied by the 'Statutory' boys. With the benefit of hindsight I can identify the risks but I genuinely was not alert to those difficulties then. I recall one particular boy, **DL 446** whom gave me great difficulty in the early 1970s, whom I now know was removed by welfare from a [REDACTED]



1     A.   I'm not 100% sure.

2     Q.   You are not sure?

3     A.   I think it was BR2 was in charge at the time.

4     Q.   In '73 through to '77 it would have been BR2.

5     A.   Okay.  When I first went into the home, I sat in the  
6         back of the car and it was all coastline, and I remember  
7         getting a pen and drawing in how to run way from this  
8         home, you know.  My intentions were as soon as I get to  
9         there I was running away.  As I say, it was ten days  
10        later.  So when we got caught, we were took back.  
11        Individually I don't know who was first, but my brother  
12        would go in first and he would get the caning and you  
13        could hear him crying.  You could even hear the cane  
14        coming down on his fingers and this made you all nervous  
15        to go in.  You're only kids and you know what's going to  
16        happen to you.  Then I was took in.  This man to me, he  
17        enjoyed giving us the corporal punishment that he says  
18        was meted out to us.  Now we were only 7 years of age  
19        and this was a grown man with a big stick hitting us as  
20        hard as he could to try to teach us a lesson not to run  
21        away.  It wasn't a lesson not to run away.  It was  
22        a lesson of fear, you know.  That was my first time  
23        being so afraid of that home, being so afraid of a grown  
24        man that if he could do that, what else could he do, you  
25        know?  That was the same as most of them I would come

**DL 525** proceeded to full vows. I requested the resignation of a member of the lay staff because of his aggressiveness towards the boys and because of his alcoholism. There was a second instance, in 1982, when I reported another member of the lay staff to the Management Committee and he also was asked to resign.

130. While I personally felt corporal punishment was rarely effective, there were occasions when it was administered for serious breaches of discipline, e.g. violence and abusive language toward staff, continuous absconding, breaking and entering and stealing. The punishment was carried out in the manner prescribed, was witnessed by another member of staff, recorded and the returns sent to the Department, though there may have been occasion when the official returns may have been incomplete or inaccurate. I know that I documented in my diaries occasions when I had to use corporal punishment and generally the reason for administering same. I have to accept that there will have been times when punishment was not carried out strictly in accordance with the regulations and I'm aware of the incident involving **BR 77** conviction. What I can say is that I don't consider that I was personally responsible for over aggressive physical punishment. If I witnessed any of my staff acting inappropriately I would have challenged them about it.

131. There were times when I quite clearly had momentary loss of self control. Looking back -- those were difficult and stressful times. I note my diary entries for;

- 10<sup>th</sup> January 1973 -- hit **DL 315** across the face for being giddy

I note my remorse expressed in feelings of low mood. I certainly don't consider that I was overly physical or that I either administered or condoned physical punishment or physicality outside that permitted by the regulations. I'm glad to note, as **Exhibit 14** details **DL 315** was still 'asking for me'.

132. For minor offences, sanctions included loss of weekend leave, loss of pocket money not being allowed to discos swimming pool, youth club deprivation of T.V. The school, as a separate entity from the Home, had its own code of discipline and was regulated by the Department of Education.

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Re HIA 222 - [REDACTED]

Response by De La Salle Order

Date:

Br Pius McCarthy, Provincial Secretary, assisted in the preparation of this statement. He died on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 before being able to sign same. Br Francis Manning, Provincial, adopts the contents of this statement on behalf of the De La Salle Order. Certain sections may have been amended, where applicable, to reflect tense in the third person.

I, Br Francis Manning will say as follows;

1. [REDACTED] HIA 222 born [REDACTED] was admitted to Rubane House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1974 and was discharged to care of his parents 12 weeks later on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1974 – see **Exhibit 1**.
2. In respect of paragraph 3: [REDACTED] BR 2 was in charge at the time. Neither HIA 222 nor his Brother were locked in a room. There were no locks on doors except for staff rooms and food cupboards. The boys had to be held in the parlour.

The Ledger Book entry (copy attached as **Exhibit 2**) records;

*3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1974 - Admitted from Court - non attendance at school - two very stubborn boys - brought by [REDACTED] (going on course) [REDACTED] (New SW) & Mother. Boys said they would refuse to stay [REDACTED] had to be taken away from car forcibly'.*

Three days later the Ledger records;

*8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1974 Put on clothes - mother arrives at 11.00 with [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Wild scene in hall at 12.45 [REDACTED] clung to mother - screamed, kicked and cried - [REDACTED] likewise, said they would not stay - had to restrain them until mother left. A few clouts to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Settles down - went to school in afternoon.'*

[REDACTED] BR 2 Diary records;

*9th October 1974 - [REDACTED] arrives with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Boys would not let their mother go. Clung to her, screamed, cried and abuse her - forced to pull [REDACTED] off her and hold the two of them in the parlour until the car went. [REDACTED] quietens down. [REDACTED] very stubborn - took a lot out of me.'*

The Social Workers and the boys' mother would have been aware that the boys were being restrained to enable the Social Workers and mother to leave.

3. In respect of paragraph 4: HIA 222's recollection is accurate.
4. In respect of paragraph 5: There was Benediction on Friday evenings. If HIA 222 could name or describe the two Brothers it may be able to comment further.
5. In respect of paragraph 6: Smoking in the bedrooms was forbidden due to the fire risk. It was an offence subject to corporal punishment. The Order notes the reference to the strap. If the strap was used to strike the face that was outside the



1 Q. -- you were the -- in a sense you were the institutional  
2 client of the De La Salle Brothers or one of them -- you  
3 would have expected to have been told about these  
4 matters.

5 **A. I certainly would, yes.**

6 Q. If I may turn the question round, would conduct of that  
7 sort have been dealt with within the state sector in the  
8 same way or would the police have been informed, for  
9 example, or the Department informed?

10 **A. In relation to our homes?**

11 Q. Yes. If somebody had behaved -- a member of staff had  
12 behaved in the way that's alleged here.

13 **A. Yes. That would definitely have been investigated.**

14 Q. And would the investigation --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- have potentially involved the police?

17 **A. Yes, it would have, because it was physical assault from**  
18 **what you -- what I know about BR77.**

19 Q. And we know in his case that it was reported to the  
20 police. The police investigated it, but the other  
21 matters, if they had happened, you would have expected  
22 them to be investigated, would you?

23 **A. Yes, I would.**

24 Q. Yes, but none of this was brought to the attention of  
25 your authority until the BR77 matter?

1       again referred to societal norms, you know, and  
2       I suppose for De La Salle the other complication was  
3       they had a school in the grounds and the home was  
4       operated more -- in my view anyway was operated more  
5       like a boarding school, and they had not implemented the  
6       guidance in relation to a boarding school type -- a care  
7       home with education. They were providing both education  
8       and care and it looked as though the education aspects  
9       had taken over in terms of how they ran the home, both  
10      in terms of clothing and everything else and rules and  
11      regulations, and, you know, I was concerned about those  
12      aspects. Again corporal punishment was still retained  
13      in the schools as well. So I think those are the  
14      reasons that the Department, although they sympathised  
15      with us, they felt it probably wouldn't be accepted.

16   Q. In relation to a Welfare Authority home the notion of  
17      a kind of a cuff around the head as opposed to something  
18      that's formal, three of the best, would that have raised  
19      issues?

20   A. No. We had -- we didn't have to implement this  
21      guidance. It was up to the Board to decide, you know,  
22      and we -- certainly it was not our practice -- as to  
23      what you do in practice, it was not our practice in  
24      statutory homes for any form of physical chastisement.

25   Q. Can I just go back to your memo when you say, you know,

FEBRUARY 1972

4 FRIDAY

WEEK 6 - 35-331

DL 474 burns herself in the kitchen. The gas oven seems to have been on during the night. Lit match & explosion. [redacted] maintenance man calls. Nothing seriously wrong. [redacted] calls in for cup of tea at 3.45. [redacted] not to go out today. [redacted] ditches himself - DL 115 tells him to wash his underwear. Blows his top. Language abusive in the extreme. Ran down the avenue. Came back. Went over to chat after supper and gave him three slaps. Told him he could go if he liked. "No - bus".

5 SATURDAY

R 8:34 S 5:56

WEEK 6 - 36-330

[redacted] goes off in the morning. Phoned [redacted] Could not get through to Melfan. BR 29 hits [redacted] in the dining hall. I forbid him to go to the baths - while [redacted] BR 29 fang BR 20 in his hand to brain BR 29 takes boy to baths. Wet every [redacted] arrives at 5.00 while I am playing Badminton.

I feel rotten - what the reason? Probably on account of the [redacted] episodes.

Wed 3rd Feb.

**BR 6** has to go to St. John's suddenly.  
 Got a very severe pain at 7.00. **BR 3**

calls Dr. Graham, I bring him up at 9.00 - There  
 at 10.00 - Room No 26. - Got a pain last  
 night at 4 am. - Went to **BR 3** room

Pain went about 4.30 - His appointment with  
 Dr. Alton in Dublin cancelled, Tomorrow - **BR 12**

going down - Called in to see [redacted] for  
 a few minutes - "Was Br. Superior up to see you?"  
 Home at 11.00 - **BR 3** not in house.

Over in **DL 115** **BR 4** **BR 3**

**SR 57** + myself - punch - Bed 12.15.

Thurs Lath Ring at 7.00. **BR 4** rings at 8.30.

No report from St. John's. School - [redacted] English Inspector  
 in school - goes at 12.30 - Sees **BR 4** & **SR 33**

Group 2 after school - Frustrating - Put off [redacted]  
 [redacted] - "Bostard" - [redacted] kicked  
 in eye by [redacted] down field after supper

50 lines. **BR 4** & **BR 22** go up to St. John's - **BR 4**  
**BR 3** + **SR 57** Sr. up to see [redacted] + **BR 6**



## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 9

punishment and I reported the matter to the Management Committee.

Q Was the matter reported to either the Department of Health & Social Services, or the Western Health & Social Services Board.

A Not to my knowledge.

Q In April 1979, DL 45 alleges he received a fractured wrist as a result of a kick by BR 77 during a football match. Were you made aware of this incident.

A Yes.

Q DL 45 alleges the kick was malicious, was this allegation made known to you at the time.

A No.

Q Was the matter reported to either the Department or his local Health & Social Services Board.

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Did you keep a record book in the Home as required on Schedule 2 of the Children & Young Persons Voluntary Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975.

A The only book I kept was a daily diary of the comings and goings of boys.

Q Is this diary still at the school.

A Yes.

Q A number of allegations have been put to you, do you wish to make a written statement about them.

A Not at this time, I have come forward to help you in your enquiries.

Q Can you give me a brief outline of your running of the Home.

A Responsibility for the care of the boys and of the staff, maintenance of property.

Q Since you haven't made me aware that you have any medical qualifications do you feel you have sufficient authority to medically examine boys.

A This medical examination was done purely as a precautionary measure, the reason for this measure was to ensure that no infectious disease was brought into the Home. During all my years working with boys this precaution has been taken, but unfortunately at Kircubbin we did not



## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

expenditure at the home. The home presently has accommodation for seventy plus boys. They are accommodated in four chalets and also dormitories in the main building. Each chalet contains between 12-15 boys. Each chalet is run by house parents who attend to the welfare of the boys. The boys' meals are supplied in the chalets except during school term when the mid-day meal is supplied in the central dining room. There is a school of secondary standard within the confines of the home catering entirely for the children who are resident. The school is staffed by De La Salle Brothers and outside teachers. Today all the children in the home have been placed there by one of the four Health Boards by virtue of court orders. Finance today is mainly supplied by the Health Boards in the form of an agreed per capita charge levied in respect of each boy. In 1977 [REDACTED] BR 1 was appointed as [REDACTED] in place of [REDACTED] BR 2 who left to attend [REDACTED]. In November 1979 I was told that a boy had been illtreated by a Brother in the sports hall at Rubane. I called with [REDACTED] BR 1 and asked was this true. I was told that the Brother concerned was [REDACTED] BR 77 and that the boy had required hospital treatment. I asked [REDACTED] BR 1 to warn [REDACTED] BR 77 about this kind of behaviour. The policy of the Management Committee is that there should be no corporal punishment at the home. It is also the thinking of the Management Committee that anyone who is bad tempered or quick tempered is unsuitable for work in a children's home, no matter how gifted that person might be.

ef/5/3

14

VERY REV McCANN  
BY MR COMERTON

A which was mentioned earlier in the hearing; that was ever brought to my attention about ill-treatment was one in November of 1979, when there was an allegation brought to my notice about ill-treatment of a boy by a teacher in the school.

Q Is that the teacher whose name has already been mentioned in one of the incidents?

A Yes.

B Q How did it come to you?

A It came to me from Father John O'Connor, who with me was a member of the Management Committee, and who is the Director of the Catholic Family Welfare Office, who at the time had its social worker visiting the home on a regular basis, and this social worker reported to him that in her visit to the home she had heard that a boy had been -- the words would be -- "beaten up" by a teacher outside of school hours in the school sports ground. The following morning I went down to the home and spoke to the officer in charge and asked him, was this true. What I asked him was, was it true that a boy was struck by the teacher with his fist and that the boy had been taken to Newtownards Hospital and required stitching.

D

E

F

G

H

/ I was told that...



## STATEMENT CONTINUATION PAGE

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

CONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

expenditure at the home. The home presently has accommodation for seventy plus boys. They are accommodated in four chalets and also dormitories in the main building. Each chalet contains between 12-15 boys. Each chalet is run by house parents who attend to the welfare of the boys. The boys' meals are supplied in the chalets except during school term when the mid-day meal is supplied in the central dining room. There is a school of secondary standard within the confines of the home catering entirely for the children who are resident. The school is staffed by De La Salle Brothers and outside teachers. Today all the children in the home have been placed there by one of the four Health Boards by virtue of court orders. Finance today is mainly supplied by the Health Boards in the form of an agreed per capita charge levied in respect of each boy. In 1977 BR 1 was appointed as [REDACTED] in place of BR 2 who left to attend [REDACTED]. In November 1979 I was told that a boy had been illtreated by a Brother in the sports hall at Rubane. I called with BR 1 and asked was this true. I was told that the Brother concerned was BR 77 and that the boy had required hospital treatment. I asked BR 1 to warn BR 77 about this kind of behaviour. The policy of the Management Committee is that there should be no corporal punishment at the home. It is also the thinking of the Management Committee that anyone who is bad tempered or quick tempered is unsuitable for work in a children's home, no matter how gifted that person might be.



## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: DL 52AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"]                     OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: SCHOOLBOYADDRESS: C/O DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, KIRCUBBIN, CO DOWN

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 24th day of April 1980

D/Constable Norman McLaughlin (Sgd)

SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received.

DL 52

SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I have been in De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin, for about the last four years. I was sent here by the Court as a result of my appearing on a charge of mitching school and one charge of burglary. I was very happy at De La Salle and nothing happened to me up until about one month ago when I was assaulted in the sports hall by BR 77. We were playing basket-ball and I had said to one of my mates in a joke, if you drop the ball I will hit you. My mate is called DL 60. DL 60 did drop the ball and I went over to him and hit him, a friendly tap on the back of the head. BR 77 was in charge of us for and after I gave DL 60 the friendly tap on the head BR 77 came over to me and punched me on the jaw. I tried to cover myself up and he kept on punching me with both fists until I fell and hit my head on the wall. When I was on the ground he kept on hitting me and cut my upper lip. He also kicked me once when I was on the ground. After he saw that I was bleeding from the lip he tried to make up to me by saying it was an accident. He attended to the cut on my lip himself and I did not have any medical attention. Most of the other boys in the class were present in the sports hall and seen BR 77 assault me. Immediately after the PE class I went to BR 3 and told him what BR 77 did to me. BR 3 told me that he would look into it. I also told BR 1 about

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: DL 52



## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: \_\_\_\_\_

DL 60

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"] \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOLBOY

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

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

Dated this 17th day of November 19 80 .

(SGD) G A Wilson

SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received.

(SGD) DL 60

SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I have already made a statement about my stay in De La Salle Boys' Home. Not too long before the police came to the Home and interviewed the boys, I was playing in a basket-ball match during school hours. During the match DL 52 hit me a tap on the head. BR 77 who was refereeing the match then came over and asked DL 52 why he had hit me. DL 52 said he was only messing and BR 77 turned round and hit him on the mouth with his fist. Blood started to come out. He kept on hitting him round the head and all. About three weeks later he told the whole class he was sorry for what he had done.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: (SGD)

DL 60

1 very helpful in planning for provisions. Owing to  
2 severe blizzards, the week-end was cancelled.

3 On 27th March" --

4 This is a week later.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- **DL 522** and myself agreed we should discuss the  
7 accusations against BR77 with BR1 in more detail.  
8 I mentioned the incident in which **DL 33** was involved  
9 and both myself and **DL 522** went on to mention the  
10 other incidents reported to us. However, BR1  
11 interrupted and said that he knew of the incident of the  
12 split lip, that it had happened a long time ago and that  
13 he had dealt with it at the time. He said no other  
14 incident had been reported to him since then. We  
15 repeated what the boys had said and said we were  
16 concerned about such reports. BR1 agreed, but said that  
17 as far as he knew there had been no further incidents  
18 since he had dealt with the situation."

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. "The week-end was to be rearranged, if possible, for  
21 18th to 20th April 1980."

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. "I was on leave Easter week and on my return on 14th  
24 April I again visited Kircubbin to bring **DL 33** down to  
25 see **DL 33**."

REPORTS MADE TO SOCIAL WORKER - INCIDENTS IN KIRCUBBIN

While in Rubane Boys Home [redacted] DL 167 (discharged mentioned that a [redacted] and a member of staff had had a fight following [redacted] hitting one of the boys for misbehaving. [redacted] DL 167 said that [redacted] was not allowed to work with the boys any more. However, when I questioned him about the incident and found that [redacted] DL 167 did not actually know the brother, the boy or the member of staff, alleged to be involved and had not been a witness to any incident. He had no complaints about his own treatment and had not witnessed any incidents of the sort which had been described to him. He also asked me not to let staff know that he had mentioned it to me.

I discussed the matter with another social worker from the District [redacted] DL 516 who confirmed that one of the boys had been struck by one of the brothers but that she had made enquiries and mentioned the issue to [redacted] BR 1. The latter informed her that he was aware of the situation and that the difficulty had been resolved. Myself and said social worker continued to discuss general matters of common concern, vis a vis, children in the home, e.g. clothing, pocket money, institutionalization, etc. No further incidents of assault or excess punishment were reported directly to me.

On the 7th February 1980 a Leavers Group was started after preliminary discussions with and support of [redacted] BR 1. The aim being to try to alleviate some of the problems faced by boys returning to community, most of whom had had a prolonged period of institutionalised care.

[redacted] BR 1 was informed of discussions and issues raised by the boys, vis a vis, their present care and discussed said issues with myself and [redacted] DL 522. It had been agreed that a residential week-end for the boys should be set up - undertaken by the social workers running the group sessions and with a representative of Rubane to assist.

On 6th March in the group discussion it was brought up with the boys that a member of staff from the home would be assisting in organising the week-end. During this session a [redacted] BR 77 name was mentioned and some of the boys said they did not like him and did not want him to be part of the group. They nominated a [redacted] in preference. We explained that selection of staff was a matter for Rubane but said we would mention their preference to [redacted] BR 1.

On the 10th March 1980 I was visiting Rubane with [redacted] father of [redacted] DL 33 and [redacted] DL 51 children placed in Rubane. During the interview [redacted] DL 51 mentioned that [redacted] BR 77 was now acting as



in the absence of BR 17 who has returned home as his only remaining relative is seriously ill. He said he disliked BR 77 and said he had taken DL 33 into the laundry and hit him - 'just for smoking in the wrong place'. DL 33 confirmed this and said he had hit him a few digs and that "he" hated him. I asked DL 33 if he had been bruised at all and he said 'Oh it was O.K.'. He also asked me not to mention it to BR 1 as he said it would only make things worse'. On the way home DL 33 said he was of the opinion that DL 33 had exaggerated the severity of the punishment (i.e. if he didn't have a bruise).

On the 13th March I was again in Kircubbin with DL 522 In discussing the week-end the boys again mentioned BR 77 - more boys were present at this session (approx. 14). Almost all were afraid that they would not go if BR 77 were selected as Rubane's representative. Reasons given were (1) that he was generally vicious and aggressive (2) that he had split a boys lips once (the boy was present) (3) that on camping week-ends he hit boys with a mountaineering rope and (4) that if he didn't like what he saw boys doing there he'd "get them" when he returned from the week-end. In relation to No. 2, the boys said that brother BR 77 had been reprimanded by BR 1 and made apologise to the boy for the incident and to all the boys for his general behaviour. He apparently said to them that he knew he was getting a bad reputation and that he was sorry and it wouldn't happen again. They said he had improved for a while but that lately he was up to his old tricks often. Feeling was so strong that DL 522 went over to see BR 1. She explained BR 77 unpopular and rough reputation to him and asked that another member of staff be selected for the week-end. Brother BR 1 was not able to give a definite answer to this. The matter was left in abeyance until the following week.

On the 20th March 1980 we saw BR 1 again. He made no mention of BR 77 and said that was rather reticent about going on the trip but that we could speak to him about it. In fact did agree to go but BR 77 being more expert in planning for trips, was called in to assist in preparing what foods/amounts, etc., should be brought/purchased. At first the latter was rather defensive - he seemed to know the boys had objected to him coming on the week-end. However, after a couple of minutes he relaxed and was very helpful in planning for provisions.

Owing to severe blizzards the week-end was cancelled.

On the 27th March 1980 DL 522 and myself agreed we should discuss the accusations against BR 77 with BR 1 in more detail.

I mentioned the incident in which DL 33 was involved and both myself and DL 522 went on to mention the other incidents reported to us. However, BR 1 interrupted and said that he knew of the incident (split lip) that it had happened a long time ago and he had dealt with it at the time. He said no other incident had been reported to him since then. We repeated what the boys had said and said that we were concerned about such reports. Brother BR 1 agreed but said that as far as he knew there had been no further incidents since he had dealt with the situation.

The week-end was to be rearranged, if possible, for the 18th - 20th April 1980.

I was on leave Easter week and on my return - 14th April 1980 - I again visited Kircubbin, to bring DL 51 down and to see DL 33

When we arrived DL 240 made coffee for DL 51 and myself. The boy asked who was in charge (Brother BR 2 had been there for a while) and DL 240 said it was BR 77. DL 51 was not pleased and DL 240 said that BR 77 "tries to keep" the boys "in their box" a bit too much and that the boys didn't like him for it. She said he was however, good to them in other ways. DL 51 laughed and said "What are you talking about - good to us!"

DL 240 mentioned that DL 33 had broken nine eggs just before Easter (some of the boys had started throwing them at each other). DL 240 said she had hit DL 33 with a wooden spoon when she discovered what he'd done. She also mentioned that she had taken DL 33 out for the day during the holidays. DL 240 is generally popular with the boys and not considered a disciplinary).

DL 51 went out to look for DL 33 whom I then saw on his own. We discussed several issues concerning his family and future and then I said I had heard he'd been in trouble over breaking eggs. DL 33 laughed, discussed the correction and said that DL 240 hadn't even taken the money off him for the eggs although she was supposed to. I asked him how he got on over the holidays and in discussion he mentioned that BR 77 had strapped him again before the Easter holidays. He said he was terrified of him. I asked why he told me he had been hit the first time when really he had been strapped. He shrugged and said he had been strapped both times - in the laundry. The first time it was for bringing a cigarette into the chalet - DL 33 said he had "nicked it" and BR 77 said he had been smoking. The second time DL 33 said he had been horseplaying with another boy whom he "tapped" on the head with a pot. The other boy had started to cry and BR 77 had taken him into the laundry and strapped him. He didn't know how many times he had been strapped. I asked about marks and DL 33 said he had been strapped most often on the back and as he was wearing a jacket the marks faded

in a very short time but that he had had a strap mark on his leg for about 3 days.

DL 33 said he had mentioned the first incident to BR 3 head of the school and he had said that BR 77 should not strap him and not in the laundry. BR 3 had asked him to let him know if it happened again and said that they would report him to BR 1. However, DL 33 had told no one. He said he was afraid that it would mean BR 77 would start picking on him and he was afraid of getting his nose broken or something if he went mad. He mentioned DL 52 the boy who got his lip split and said that he was in the chalet too. I asked if DL 52 "welfare" knew about his lip being split and DL 33 said that all the boys had asked DL 52 to tell in case brother BR 77 did the same thing to them but DL 52 refused as he was scared. DL 33 asked me if he could be moved to the main house until BR 17 came back as he said he shook everytime BR 77 passed. I said I would have to tell brother BR 1 about the strapping and DL 33 agreed. However, BR 1 was not available and BR 6 was acting as I told him that BR 77 had strapped DL 33 and that I had told BR 1 of a previous incident and was concerned that there had been a repeat of the behaviour. Even so, BR 6 agreed that it was a serious matter but said that he could not move the boys. He said that a rota had been established for the chalet and that BR 77 would not have sole charge of the boys except on certain days. He also agreed to reprimand BR 77 but preferred to make it an anonymous report than to let him know who complained.

DL 517

Appendix 1EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT*RS*

## MEMORANDUM

From <b>DL 524</b> District Social Services Officer	To Mr. E. S. Gilliland, Director of Social Services
Ref. WRS/AL.	Ref.

18th April 1980

Re: Incidents at La Salle, Kircubbin

Please find attached a report which has been submitted within the last few days by **DL 517** who is closely involved with a number of the boys in Kircubbin.

I would recommend that this report is forwarded immediately to the police and I would also raise the point as to whether a copy should be sent to the D.H.S.S. and indeed the Management Committee of the Home.

**DL 524**District Social Services Officer

Enc



BA/7/1

19

VERY REV McCANN  
BY MR COMERTON

- A Q To take you away from that to, as it were, the next suggestion - we know there are convictions in relation to one Brother in relation to physical misbehaviour, that is the Brother you had occasion to go down to talk to the officer-in-charge about; when did you learn that there were other allegations apart from that one?  
A About him?
- B Q Yes?  
A Only when I saw the statements. One of those statements refers to what happened on the football field, and it refers to a fracture of an arm when the boy concerned was acting as goalkeeper. I see that every week on television, goalkeepers who maybe are accidentally struck by a player; I thought then that that allegation was putting it a bit far, I remember reading that allegation - that statement, rather, and it mentioned that whatever plaster was put on the limb was removed in two weeks, and I thought it wasn't maybe all that serious - I would deplore that kind of thing happening anywhere but apparently it did happen during a football match.
- C Q But I was taking you in a general way, when you learned the general allegations, were any steps taken in relation to that particular Brother?  
A Well, this Brother was a teacher in the school, a very gifted teacher, a man with great ability in organisation of physical activities, [REDACTED] - all that sort of thing, but apparently he was a very short-tempered person and I think it might be said about him that after a full day teaching in the school he was doing these external, extra-curricular activities, and I thought that he wasn't the ideal person to be in the field of child care, especially dealing with children who might be difficult, who might have behavioural problems.
- D Q I was more concerned to take you, Father - was he suspended, about your steps to suspend him and the timing of that?  
A I beg your pardon. Actually, whenever Sergeant Wilson drew my attention to statements that he had taken alleging that there had been physical ill-treatment I went down to the home and, in the presence of the then officer-in-charge I asked to see Brother - this teacher, and when he came in I told him about these allegations that had been made against him and the intention of the police to take action against him and that I remember, out of delicacy, not using the word "suspension", and I said to him "I regret having to ask you to absent yourself from the school and not to be in any communication with the school in any way" - I didn't even like using the word "suspension" but that is actually what the words meant, and he was upset, and arrangements were made for him to be transferred even though it was before the completion of his school year.
- E Q That is what I want to bring out; was it within a day of your hearing of the allegations that you stopped him dealing with the boys in the home and school?  
A Without delay. I think I was speaking to Sergeant Wilson in the morning and I went down that afternoon.
- F Q And then is it right that because he was employed by the Department of Education, the issue of resignation was a slower process?  
A Yes, the Department of Education naturally enough don't take it kindly when a teacher doesn't finish his school year, and I think that arrangements were made for him to teach in another school so that he might at least be occupied. I don't know what way that worked out in detail, but I think that is what happened, but he certainly, that very day - I think within the hour - left the school.
- G
- H

get up for meals, and showed signs of depression. He also became aggressive at times, and on one occasion put his foot through a door and threatened his Mother when she tried to restrain him from damaging an electrical appliance belonging to a neighbour.

A new Adolescent Unit was in the process of opening at Coneywarren House, and it was felt that DL 212 might be suited to this type of residential Care, since on reflection Coneywarren seemed to be the only place where he had conformed and been relatively content.

DL 212 was told that as soon as possible he would be returning to Coneywarren House, but that until such times as a place became vacant he would have to be removed to De La Salle Boys' Home at Kircubbin, Co Down, and I took him there on 29 January 1981.

DL 212 settled quickly and attended school willingly.

On 17 February BR 2, Head of Home, telephoned me to say DL 212 had threatened a member of Staff with a poker, and it was felt that he could no longer be controlled or contained at this establishment.

Following a fuller enquiry it was felt that this confrontation could have been sparked off by a clash of personalities and that DL 212 had acted impulsively as a result of provocation.

Nevertheless, feeling in the Home was running high, and it was thought best that DL 212 be transferred to Coneywarren expeditiously, but not before discussing the situation with the Staff there. Having been given the option, Staff at Coneywarren House were satisfied they could cope with DL 212 and he was admitted to their Care on 27 February 1981.



Telephone: Kircubbin 261

RUB-68222

Re: 'Salle Bangs' Home,

Kircubbin,

Newsumards, B122 IAJ

Co. Dub.

December 1981.

Re: **DL 81**

As a result of a formal complaint and investigation into an incident involving **DL 413** and **DL 81** on 10th December, 1981, a verbal warning has been issued to the above regarding his conduct with boys.

Reports of the incident are in **DL 413** file.

Signed: **BR 2**

Wed. 16th : 7.00 - 8.30 pm. Meetg with DL 11 & DL 12. - Generally a fault finding session - alleged that DL 81 wasn't speaking to either of them. - Where was DL 81 yesterday afternoon & night?  
9.50 - 10.35 pm. - DL 81 phones & requests meetg.

What did I mean by "warning".  
Since the complaint was made formally, I would be giving a formal warning re: "rough handling".

Thurs 17th : 9.30 - 10.30 Informed [redacted] & asked her to make Pro Connor aware of incident & general situation - Ch. 2.

2.00 pm. - Saw [redacted] & DL 81 suggested a joint meetg. for Monday -  
Saw DL 11 & made same suggestion.

Fridg 18th : 9.30? Phone from [redacted] - The following instructions:

- 1) Report from DL 413
- 2) " " " " DL 81
- 3) Reports from 2 independent witnesses - [redacted] & boy.
- 4) Make sec. of Committee aware.
- 5) Send reports to Sol.
- 6) Send reports to [redacted] Saw.
- 7) Set DL 413 Medically examined.

10.00 am : Saw [redacted] & DL 81 2.30 pm. and asked them for written reports. Agreed. to have them to have them tonight.

1.30 pm - Saw DL 413 and told him of writing to all staff & DL 81 in particular & his own conduct - Seemed satisfied.

2.45 - Saw DL 12 & DL 11 & told them of developments. Also. Meetg on Monday to be extended to include member from Mngmnt committee. DL 413

3.30 - [redacted] examined - OK.  
10.10. [redacted] DL 81 bring reports. Told him of incident.



21st December, 1981.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
S.H. & S.S. Board,  
Newry and Mourne District,  
Monaghan Row,  
NEWRY,  
Co. Down.

Dear [REDACTED]

Following our telephone conversation on Friday, 18th inst., I enclose copies of statements and reports of an incident which occurred in Chalet [REDACTED] involving [REDACTED] DL 413 and [REDACTED] DL 81 a member of s the Residential Staff.

If there is any further information which you would like to have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish for Christmas and the new Year.

Yours sincerely,

BR 2

Encs.

DL 520

25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1982

On Monday morning of 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1982, I heard  
DL 520 pass an abrupt remark to [redacted] about  
his toast.

"Is this the best you can do for me" he said.  
Using DL 11 approach I asked him

"Did you think this is a latel? Do you always  
get toast at home the way you want it?" With this  
he rose from the table, gripped me by the throat  
and drew a knife to me. In order to break his  
concentration and shock him as he was by this  
stage going hysterical with the knife, I slapped  
him with my hand on his face.

Approximately 15 minutes later I informed  
the deputy BR 7, we discussed the incident.  
BR 7 informed me that he would speak  
to DL 11 and BR 2 on the matter.

Unfortunately it was not until 3 days later it  
was decided that DL 520 would go to St. Patricks.  
This incident was a contributing factor on this  
decision.

I ask, - is this period of waiting from  
the time the incident happen to the time  
punishment is carried out part of good child  
care? I personally don't say it is.

DL 81

## Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

Statement of [DL 40]

1. I, [DL 40] was in the De La Salle Boys Home, Rubane between 19<sup>th</sup> September 1977 and 26<sup>th</sup> May 1981
2. I make this statement with the full knowledge that it will be provided to the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse. I am happy to answer any queries the Inquiry team may have. I am also happy to appear before the Inquiry.
3. Throughout the majority of my time in Rubane, [BR 1] was the [ ] I was in Rubane in April 1980 when [BR 1] was removed and I was subsequently interviewed by the RUC. The police asked me about [BR 1] but I had no issues with [BR 1] at all. There were whisperings that he would watch the boys in the showers on a Thursday night but there was certainly no talk or rumours about anything beyond that. I am aware that [BR 1] is alleged to have conducted medical examinations on the boys but it certainly did not happen to me.
4. I was abused in Rubane. I was abused by Brendan Smyth. He had visited me in Nazareth Lodge and he visited me approximately 3-4 times in Rubane before I went to [BR 1] and told him that Brendan Smyth was interfering with me. I'd say that was about a ¼ of my way through Rubane – some point during 1978. [BR 1] told me that he would deal with it and I was thankful to him because I never met Smyth again. I had no concerns with discussing this issue with [BR 1].
5. I didn't tell the police in 1980 about Brendan Smyth. They didn't ask about it. They were asking about [BR 1] and [BR 77]. After I saw Brendan Smyth on the TV in 1994 I phoned to the RUC and they interviewed me in [ ] and took a signed statement. I also spoke to Chris Moore and appeared in his programme about Smyth. I told both the RUC and Chris Moore that [BR 1] had stopped Brendan Smyth interfering with me.
6. I believe that Smyth also abused [DL 41] and [DL 59] in Rubane. Those were the other boys that I saw Smyth calling to see.
7. My Houseparents in Rubane were [DL 115] (followed by [DL 81] and [DL 82]) and [BR 10] [DL 115] was a good person and [DL 81] was okay, although he had a temper. I never 'hit it off' with [BR 10], there was simply a personality clash. We simply didn't click and I simply avoided him when I could. He was big into his music groups and I wasn't part of that scene.



DE LA SALLE, RUBANE, KIRCUBBIN

On the 4th February, 1982, [DL 81] and [DL 514], [ ] and assistant houseparent in Chalet [ ] at De La Salle Home came to see me and to make certain complaints about the running of this home.

Both members of staff stated their complaints were particularly in relation to Chalet [ ] in which they both have been employed since September 1981. They both claimed that they felt the Chalet was run for the benefit of the staff rather than the kids, e.g. if children were not in the dining room by 8.15 a.m. for breakfast, they did not receive same. They claimed the Head of the chalet was the person who determined the policy and that some of the policies within this chalet were unacceptable to them, e.g. if a boy spoke to the Head of the chalet when he was off duty the boy was fined 20p. If any boy made noise when the Head of the chalet was off duty they were fined 20p. The Head of the chalet and his wife, who is deputy in this Group are resident, and their resident accommodation apparently has certain communal facilities ie; the kitchen; the policy is that only one boy with a member of staff is allowed in the kitchen. It appears to be also that the Head of the chalet allows the older boys to control the younger ones, and as part of their control they are encouraged to fine the younger boy for any misdemeanours. The two members of staff also complained that the Head of the chalet showed favouritism to some of the boys over birthdays. Also each day before retiring to bed every boy had to wash his feet in a basin of water which was placed on the floor. It appears that the same basin and the same water is used for all 12 boys in the chalet.

[DL 81] and [DL 514] gave these illustrations and stated that they tended to ignore a number of them because they did not agree with this policy. They complained bitterly that good child care practices were not allowed in this chalet.

They decided a week before Christmas to discuss their problems with [ ] [ ] who advised them to discuss the matter with [BR 2] When they saw [BR 2] and his [ ] they were informed by the Brothers that they considered these matters as trivial which could be resolved at a staff meeting and that they would arrange for this staff meeting to take place before the Christmas holidays.

The meeting was arranged between [BR 2], [ ] [DL 81] [BR 6] [DL 81] [DL 514] and the [ ] [DL 81] and [DL 514] presented what they felt were good child care principles and practice and asked for these to be implemented within their chalet. They were informed that the Brothers would consider their request and report back to them after the Christmas holidays. In reporting back the Brothers informed [DL 81] and [DL 514] that they supported the policies as laid down by the Officers in Charge of the chalet. They further claimed that [BR 2] informed them on an individual basis that if they did not like the policies they could leave, and in the case of [DL 514] she claimed that [BR 2] said his greatest problem was that he employed too many educated people. ([DL 514] has a [ ] and [DL 81] [ ]

# Eastern Health and Social Services Board

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Department of Health and Social Services,  
Dundonald House,  
Upper Newtownards Road,  
BELFAST,  
BT4 3SF.

65 University Street Belfast BT7 1HN  
Telephone 44811  
Telegrams EHSSB, Belfast

Director of Social Services  
E. S. Gilliland B.Sc. (Econ.)

our ref: RJB/KL

your ref:

22nd February, 1982.

Dear [REDACTED]

## DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME

Further to Mr. Bunting's telephone conversation with you and the discussion between Mr. Walker, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Morris, please find enclosed a copy of a report, written by Mr. Morris, outlining the allegations made to him by two members of staff from this home.

District staff have been advised not to use this home until these allegations have been dealt with and Mr. Bunting has informed [REDACTED] **BR 2** that we have taken this decision.

Following Mr. Bunting's recent discussion with Mr. Walker, who has investigated these allegations, I would be grateful to have, in writing, the views of the Department as to whether this home should continue to be used for residential accommodation for boys.

If the recommendation is positive I would be grateful to know what changes have been made in child care practice and how these are being monitored.

I am assuming that the other Boards have been informed about these allegations, by the Department.

It would be helpful for our Board, as one of the main users of this home, to have a copy of the Department's report on the inspection of the home which was carried out some months ago and any recommendations which were made to improve the standard of care.

It would also be helpful to know whether all the recommendations made by the Department have been implemented or whether there are still outstanding issues which are a cause for concern.

I feel that it is essential that this information is shared with us and I take the view that the welfare of the boys in the home overrides the issue of confidentiality which the Management Committee might raise.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Director of Social Services

Enc.

AP 1177

Mr E S Gilliland BSc (Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER  
NEWTOWNARDS  
ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

6 April 1982

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

Further to my letter of 8 March I have now received a report from Mr Walker on his investigation of the allegations made to Mr Morris about poor standards of practice at the De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane.

In addition to seeing Mr Morris, Mr Walker and Mr O'Brien spent two days in the Home interviewing **BR 2** and all of the other staff members concerned including the two people who spoke to Mr Morris. Most of the allegations concerned poor standards of child care in one of the three chalet units at the Home.

Mr Walker's opinion is that most of these alleged malpractices may have taken place in this unit at one time or another but, with the exception of the foot-washing ritual, they have not been commonplace or pervasive. Moreover they have never formed part of the child care policy of the unit but have arisen from the difficulty in the past of recruiting staff with the levels of qualification and experience that we would all like to see in the residential child care field.

We have advised the Manager that the practices which had been brought to our attention are unacceptable and he immediately agreed to tell the staff concerned that any remaining in use should be discontinued forthwith. I am satisfied that these practices have now ceased. Mr Walker, however, will continue to make regular visits to Rubane both to advise and support **BR 2** and to monitor the



improvements in the standard of child care that we are trying to encourage in this and all the other children's homes in the Province.

The second area of concern related to the person in charge of Chalet [REDACTED] who also acted as [REDACTED]. It was alleged that he had a drink problem and that he was frequently on duty in an intoxicated state.

BR 2 [REDACTED] agreed that the member of staff had started to drink following a fire that had been started by two boys and which destroyed the hayshed and its contents. He was emphatic, however, that this man had never been allowed to go on duty while under the influence of alcohol. As soon as the problem became apparent arrangements were made for him to be transferred to another of the De La Salle Order's committees and he has not been employed at Rubane since the beginning of [REDACTED]. In my opinion the Brothers dealt with this matter responsibly and expeditiously in order to avoid any risks to the boys.

I am sure that you would agree that, while there can be room for improvement in the standards of child care in this Home, as in many others both statutory and voluntary, the practices complained of did not represent a serious threat to either the safety or the welfare of the boys. In my opinion there is now no reason for your Board to ..... an <sup>AA</sup> ~~Engo~~ on the admission of boys to Rubane. Social workers who have the responsibility for children whom they consider would benefit from the type of treatment and regime that is offered by the Home should receive referrals.

I have noted your request for a copy of the Social Work Advisory Group's report on its inspection of the Rubane to be sent to your Board and I appreciate your reason for asking for it. Nevertheless, an assurance was given to the managers of all the voluntary homes that our inspection reports would be treated as confidential. It would not be proper therefore for me to accede without the agreement of the Management Committee and I shall ask the Chairman to consider your request.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Rev. Peter McCann, Chairman of the Management Committee, and the Directors of Social Services of the other three Boards.

The 17th Meeting of the Management Committee of De La Salle Boys' Home, Kircubbin, took place at Rubane House on Monday, 8th March, 1982.

PRESENT:

Rev. Fr. McCann, Chairman,  
Rev. Fr. O'Connor,  
Rev. Fr. Donnelly,  
Mrs. Nihill.

BR 2

BR 6

APOLOGIES:

Rev. Hugh Starkey,  
BR 46

Before considering the minutes of the previous meeting, it was suggested by Fr. McCann that the Committee should first consider the future position of DL 81 as a Member of Staff in the Home. BR 2 gave some chronological data of incidents stretching back over a period of time, in which DL 81 was involved with children in the Chalet Unit to which he is attached.

His recent behaviour had shown a lack of judgement and also a betrayal of trust and confidence. In making complaints about the Home to the Eastern Health Board, he had shown little confidence in the machinery of Management Committee to deal with complaints. These complaints made by him to the Board had led to a ban on admission of children to the Home. By such actions the Committee considered that the Home had been brought into disrepute.

Summing up, Fr. McCann told the Committee that DL 81 would be given the option to resign, but failing this, he would have to be formally dismissed. The Committee agreed to this procedure, and a letter of dismissal was formally drafted.

When Fr. McCann confronted DL 81 with the Committee's decision, he refused to resign, so Fr. McCann had to tell him that he was dismissed as from 8th March, and would be getting a formal letter to this effect, as from that date.

As regards DL 514, the Committee decided that in the light of her connections with DL 81 in some of the incidents in the Chalet, and also considering the report which DL 11 had submitted on her 6 months probationary period, it would be appropriate to extend her period of probation for a further 2 months. Fr. McCann informed DL 514 of the decisions of the Committee.

The minutes of the previous Meeting were now dealt with. The number of children in the Home was considered reasonable. There had been 5 discharges since the last meeting and 6 admissions, 5 of which had come from the Derry area. The Home was indeed sinking further into debt, but BR 2 said that if our application for the increased per capita maintenance allowance was implemented, our financial position would not be too worrying.



EZ APR 1982

DUNDONALD HOUSE  
UPPER NEWTON ROAD  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SF

Mr E S Gilliland BSc(Econ)  
Director of Social Services  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
65 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HN

6 April 1982

Dear Mr Gilliland

DE LA SALLE BOYS' HOME, RUBANE HOUSE, KIRCUBBIN

Further to my letter of 8 March I have now received a report from Mr Walker on his investigation of the allegations made to Mr Morris about poor standards of practice at the De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane.

In addition to seeing Mr Morris, Mr Walker and Mr O'Brien spent two days in the Home interviewing BR 2 and all of the other staff members concerned including the two people who spoke to Mr Morris. Most of the allegations concerned poor standards of child care in one of the three chalet units at the Home. Mr Walker's opinion is that most of these alleged malpractices may have taken place in this unit at one time or another but, with the exception of the foot-washing ritual, they have not been commonplace or pervasive. Moreover they have never formed part of the child care policy of the unit but have arisen from the difficulty in the past of recruiting staff with the levels of qualification and experience that we would all like to see in the residential child care field.

We have advised the Manager that the practices which had been brought to our attention are unacceptable and he immediately agreed to tell the staff concerned that any remaining in use should be discontinued forthwith. I am satisfied that these practices have now ceased. Mr Walker, however, will continue to make regular visits to Rubane both to advise and support BR 2 and to monitor the improvements in the standard of child care that we are trying to encourage in this and all the other children's homes in the Province.

The second area of concern related to the person in charge of Chalet who also acted as BR 2. It was alleged that he had a drink problem and that he was frequently on duty in an intoxicated state. BR 2 agreed that the member of staff had started to drink following a fire that had been started by two boys and which destroyed the hayshed and its contents. He was emphatic, however, that this man had never been allowed to go on duty while under the influence of alcohol. As soon as the problem became apparent arrangements were made for him to be transferred to another of the De La Salle Order's communities and he has not been employed at Rubane since the beginning of December. In my opinion the Brothers dealt with this matter responsibly and expeditiously in order to avoid any risks to the boys.

I am sure that you will agree that, while there can be room for improvement in the standards of child care in this Home, as in many others both statutory and voluntary, the practices complained of did not represent a serious threat to either the safety or the welfare of the boys. In my opinion there is now no reason for your Board to maintain an embargo on the admission of boys to Rubane. Social workers who have responsibility for children whom they consider would benefit from the type of treatment and regime that is offered by the Home should recommence referrals.



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there was, I put my head down and carried on. I did what I had to do to get on with it.

18. I was sent to Rubane House when I was twelve years old in 1963. I was expecting it because I had seen older boys moving to Rubane before.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (15<sup>th</sup> August 1963 – 13<sup>th</sup> January 1966)**

19. I moved to Rubane when I was twelve years old with a group of other boys. My brothers [HIA] and [HIA] stayed behind in Nazareth Lodge. I was in Rubane for three and a half years and I left when I was fifteen.

20. Rubane was totally different to Nazareth Lodge. It was out in the country, two miles from anywhere. When we arrived, we were met by Brother [BR 6] the [REDACTED]. He showed us where we were sleeping and told us what was what. I never took to Brother [BR 6] I thought he was too sly. The other Brothers I remember are Brother [BR 3] Brother [BR 2] Brother [BR 15] and Brother [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED] was in charge of the farm.

21. We slept in dormitories in Rubane with ten to fifteen boys in each dorm. There was an older boy in charge of each dormitory. I went to school onsite in Rubane. The brothers taught in the school and there was a civilian teacher called Mr [DL 6] who taught [REDACTED]. He was a brilliant teacher but he was very aggressive. If you got something wrong in class, he would call you a fat head and hit you. Then he'd throw the leg of a chair at you and you would have to make a run for it. We used to cut ourselves deliberately to get out of his class but we would just be given a plaster and told to go back in again.

22. If you were sick in Rubane, they would bring a doctor in. I remember I had blood poisoning once but I never saw a doctor. It started when I cut my finger and then spread the whole way up my arm. One evening, my friend hit me on the arm and I was holding a torch at the time. I smashed the torch over his head. Brother [BR 15] gave me six of the best as punishment but I didn't

- 8.99 **DL 6** attracted significant criticism from the Applicants. While many were prepared to concede that he was a skilled craftsman, it is evident that his temperament and patience was not suited to the type of pupil resident in Rubane. It is significant that those witnesses who demonstrated an aptitude for work, for example DL 40 and DL 445, had praise for him. Clearly, he had a problem in respect of classroom control. While it appears that he was the butt of a deliberate policy among the boys to wind him up it was not acceptable for him to respond in the way in which he did, by throwing instruments or bits of wood at the boys. It is noted that at least one applicant described this interaction between the boys and **DL 6** as 'a game'. Notwithstanding, the largely universal criticism of **DL 6** it is noted at RUB 10941 that in March 1981 the boys themselves had suggested that **DL 6** could take an evening class as part of after supper activities. That suggests that the boys were perhaps not in 'fear' of **DL 6** as many of them reflect today.
- 8.100 **DL 509** denied assaulting the boys or administering corporal punishment. HIA 41 alleged that **DL 509** had broken **DL 125** leg. It was noted within the RUC assessment of **DL 125** 1995 complaint that the medical records failed to corroborate that account. **DL 509** conceded during police interview to having witnessed **BR 77** use a 'rope' to beat boys on one occasion but otherwise denied witnessing any physical assault.
- 8.101 **DL 81** testified that he never set out to deliberately assault the boys. He recounted manhandling/assaulting some of the residents secondary to discipline issues arising within his Chalet Unit. DL 81 had gained a Child Care qualification during his time at Rubane and referred to the 'holding technique' taught as part of that course in justifying some of his actions. Overall, he painted a picture of having some very difficult children to manage. While openly accepting the restraining/holding/grabbing assaults DL 81 denied striking, punching or kicking at boys.
- 8.102 Post 1980, the regime appears to have mirrored society and physical chastisement became rarer. Applicants accepted that they were punished in school for being cheeky or not following instructions, but that would have been no different to any other school. Interestingly, HIA 170 and HIA 362 both confirmed that they never witnessed a boy being punished in front of other boys. By this era the removal of privileges or deduction of pocket money was the more common form of reprimand. The Chairman asked DL 81 about this issue, in light of the DL 81's comment about the Brothers being strict disciplinarians. While accepting corporal punishment was used, he expanded by recounting that it was only applied as a 'last resort'.

1     **A.** I ended up getting on with him considering, like, he  
2       wasn't the easiest person to get on with. He just  
3       didn't suffer fools. Any of the boys started their  
4       messing about, he would just lift a bit of wood or  
5       whatever it was and just throw it at them. He would  
6       tell them to get out of the class. So he would chase  
7       the boys out of the class, you know. He would run round  
8       the desk after them. I don't know what he would do if  
9       he'd caught them. He never did, but he would throw bits  
10      of wood and stuff like that there or whatever it was  
11      that he had in his hand. I ended up actually getting on  
12      quite well with him, once you got past the thran look on  
13      his face.

14    **Q.** Did the boys try to wind him up? Did the boys try to  
15      wind him up?

16    **A.** He was -- yes, he was definitely a target for being  
17      wound up, but you never stayed around after you wound  
18      him up. He used to just -- as I said, he just chased  
19      you out of the class. That was you. He'd just tell you  
20      to get out.

21    **Q.** You then mention DL1, who is DL1, in paragraph 15. He  
22      had arrived in paragraph '68 and he was the VP by  
23      September '79. That is at 11828 and 11850, Members of  
24      the Panel. You say that he hit you twice hard in the  
25      stomach. Now was he quite a small man?

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24. Other boys that tried to run away were [DL 73] [DL 415] and [DL 29] [DL 29] When I was about 12 or 13 we tried to steal a speed boat and a yacht. We were caught and we ended up in court.
25. I was bullied and sexually assaulted in Rubane.
26. I was bullied by the older boys. The staff were paying the bullies to bully us.
27. We were given pocket money on a Friday. If you were good at your school work or worked in a chalet you got pocket money. I bought bars of chocolate with my money but the bullies took the chocolate off me.
28. Boys who were sexually assaulted by the staff in Rubane sexually assaulted other boys.
29. Strangers came to the home and took young boys who were about 10 or 11 years old out. They returned the boys a couple of hours later. The boys were being sexually assaulted. I don't know the names of these people. It could have been a local farmer or anybody.
30. I was taken out of the home some weekends by a woman called [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] She worked at the [REDACTED] She was very good to me.
31. I was physically and sexually assaulted by [DL 149] [REDACTED] He was the [REDACTED]
32. He started teaching us how to play [REDACTED] but he was rough with us. If you didn't get the ball or do what he told you he would kick you on the backside or hit you on the back of the head with his fist or he would put his knee in your back. He used to sweep your feet from under you to make you fall. He did it to all the boys.



'going ons' could have occurred. I find it difficult to accept that with so many external visitors calling into the premises during all of the period when I was there, that such things could have gone unnoticed. I am absolutely certain that I myself was never aware of any such abuse either physical or sexual. I feel betrayed now by the De La Salle order who apparently have accepted that such abuse did occur and have paid compensation in a number of cases. As I say, I was not aware in the slightest of any such impropriety either in the school or the residence or the premises generally. Prior to all of this coming out, I had looked back fondly to my time in Rubane. I always like to feel that I had empathy towards the plight of students. In relation to the allegations made against me personally, I categorically and emphatically deny and refute these. I never punched a pupil in my life. I do not recall the individuals concerned from their names only, but doubtless if there were photographs I perhaps would recall them.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

DL 1

Dated:

23. 10. '14

9. I don't recall ever being visited by a Social Worker – either in Nazareth or Rubane.
10. My family never visited me in Rubane. It was probably just too far for them to go. I didn't go home for weekends or holidays.
11. During Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations I used to go to a family called [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I never went with the rest of the boys to Glenariffe but do recall a visit or two to Ballyhornan.
12. To be fair, despite my admiration for the De La Salle Brothers, I left Rubane with a very limited education. The [REDACTED] recognised this, and put me in touch with a man called [REDACTED] who ran the [REDACTED]. I went there for a summer vacation just after I left Rubane and [REDACTED] then arranged for me to have a year in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I went on to spend most of my working career in the [REDACTED] business.
13. Throughout my time in Rubane I never heard any talk of Brothers sexually interfering with boys. Indeed it was not until the mid 1990s, when the RUC came to my door, that I first became aware that any allegations had been made. The police asked me whether I had been sexually abused. I told them I hadn't but did tell them about [REDACTED] at Nazareth.
14. I stayed in touch with a lot of boys after I returned from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
none of them ever mentioned anything about Brothers abusing boys.
15. Boys were certainly interfering with each other sexually. It was part of life in Rubane but I didn't think too much about it at the time. You knew which boys to avoid and tried not to cross them. I suppose that aspect was difficult. Some of the boys, the boys who had not gone through the orphanages were fairly tough, rough types. Bullying was an issue:- as a young boy you got bullied, as an older boy you bullied. We just came through the system.
16. I have not applied to the Acknowledgment Forum. I don't consider myself to be either a victim or a survivor. To be honest when I heard about the Inquiry my first feelings were one of embarrassment. I know what went on in the Home amongst the boys. I have never told my wife or my children about that aspect of my time in care and I immediately thought that it will come out that the boys were interfering with each other.
17. I have read newspaper reports about various Brothers abusing boys in the home. I understand that some ex-residents are making allegations against the Brothers. I find this difficult to believe. Nothing ever happened to me and I never heard of it happening to anyone else.
18. Notwithstanding the embarrassment I feel about the issue I am prepared and willing to talk to the Inquiry team and if necessary give evidence at the Inquiry.

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generally the brothers were all very brutal and they had their own ways of doing things. If they took a notion that you had done something wrong or crossed them in any way you would be severely punished.

27. There was a civilian teacher, **DL 6** who taught **DL 6** and **DL 6**. He was a nutcase and he used to throw mallets and chisels at the boys. He was a bit brutal also and if he hit you with one of these items you would really feel it. He hit me on a few occasions.

28. There was a boy in the home with mental health difficulties. I can no longer recall his name but he was brutalised by the Brothers. He suffered from schizophrenia and took a lot of tablets and the Brothers picked on him all the time. He would take fits and the Brothers did not know how to treat him properly and they would try to beat it out of him. If there was anything wrong with you at all in the home you were picked on especially by the Brothers, they were the worst culprits. It was as if they were trying to turn you into a real man, to toughen you up and make you a hard man. I was hit by almost every Brother in the home, they all had a swing at me at some point if you crossed them. They were just brutal in their way of doing things and you had to be tough to survive their regime.

29. There was a hierarchy amongst the boys in the home. The older boys were like kings around the place and they picked on the younger boys. The more you were down the ranks the more you got bullied. This was the pecking order in the home and there was a code between the boys, you never told on anyone or grassed them up you would have got the life kicked out of you.

30. For a long time I heard some of the boys calling other boys queer or gay and I didn't understand what they were talking about as I was too young but you soon caught on what they meant by calling them these names. Some boys undoubtedly were gay but there were others who threatened some boys with sexual favours. I was sexually abused by a boy called **DL 58**. He was vicious and brutal. He could set upon anyone at any stage. You would be sitting one minute in your room alone and the next thing he would turn up and

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Brother did this to me. It happened to me on two occasions. I didn't run away again after that. I just put my head down after that because I knew I only had a year left.

27. The food in Rubane wasn't great. For breakfast, we got thick, lumpy porridge, bread and butter and tea. Once a week we got pocket money which we could buy sweets from the tuck shop with but if you were bad, the brothers took it off you.

28. We used to go potato picking on the farm at Rubane and for outside farmers. I loved that. It was tough work but I enjoyed it. I don't know if the farmers paid the brothers but our payment was a trip to Belfast to the pictures once a year as a treat.

29. My brother HIA 152 came to Rubane a year after I arrived and then my brother HIA 19 came when I was about fourteen. I did my best to look after them both. I carry more scars for them than I do for myself. I would always stand up for them and fight for them. My grandparents continued to visit us once a week in Rubane.

30. I played gaelic and hurling in Rubane. There was a gaelic pitch with white lines marked out on it and if you crossed the lines you got a beating. We used to practice in all weather, even when the rain was so heavy you couldn't see your hands in front of you. I enjoyed it though; it toughened me up.

31. I left Rubane when I was [REDACTED]

### Life after care

32. The Brothers found me digs on [REDACTED] in the markets with a woman named [REDACTED] I spent four years there with a boy called [REDACTED] who is dead now. My brother HIA 152 also moved in when he left Rubane. I had to find my own job so I became a [REDACTED] I did this for four years until I was twenty. I moved to [REDACTED] then for [REDACTED] years where I



- (ii) That boy got backhanders to assault other boys,
- (iii) Staff allowed older boys to punish other residents;

There is no evidence that HIA 436 was ever in Rubane and his contribution to this Module is perhaps to simply highlight that there are individuals who will recount 'experiences' which can only be false.

## Conclusion

- 8.83 Attitudes to physical chastisement both within normal family settings or standard schools changed dramatically over the operational life-span of Rubane House. Corporal Punishment was permitted by Statute in 1950 but was effectively prohibited by 1985.
- 8.84 The Inquiry has heard varying accounts of both the severity and regularity of punishment of the boys. If there is a general theme it is that by the mid-1960s the physical aspect of Rubane had 'calmed somewhat' and thereafter isolated events of punishment were generally within the regulatory framework.
- 8.85 The Order accepts that the regime under **BR 17** was certainly harsh at times. While a number of applicants, like HIA 24 and HIA 247, did not recount anything which was openly in excess of normal corporal punishment, the Order was impressed by the account of HIA 252 and the excessive caning he received for 'theft'. The Order was equally impressed by HIA 252's account of **BR 15** 'strapping boys in the shower' and HIA 183's account of the collective punishment perpetrated by **BR 15** HIA 390, with some emotion, recounted the indiscriminate 'whipping' by **BR 15** in the steward's house. While it is difficult to reconcile this type of behaviour with the account of HIA 159, the Order accepts that there were occasions when the boundary between corporal punishment and physical abuse was definitely crossed.
- 8.86 The applicants' reflections on 'boxing' were largely new to the Order on the commencement of this Inquiry. While the Order accepts that some boys may have perceived it as a 'punishment,' the general theme of the witnesses was that it was a sporting activity, albeit seemingly used at times by the Brothers to settle disputes between boys who were fighting. That may seem a very alien concept by today's standards but perhaps not uncommon in the 1950/1960s even in 'normal' family

specifically assembled. While there are some variances between their accounts at least two, if not all three, appear to be describing the same event. If that is right, the punishment, 'over the railings' was a singular event in a four year period and is recalled in their evidence, not because of any regularity, but rather by due to the rarity of the event.

- 8.92 Certain boys, as difficult children, may well have attracted regular punishment giving rise to a perception that they were beaten constantly. HIA 379 and HIA 94 are clear examples.
- 8.93 In our view that accounts of HIA 511, HIA 519, HIA 218 and HIA 219 should not be considered.
- 8.94 The Order, prior to the commencement of Module 3, accepted that **BR 2** had to chastise **BR 18** on occasions in respect of his physicality with the boys. The Inquiry heard from HIA 31, HIA 259, HIA 18, HIA 25, HIA 149 and HIA 362 about **BR 18**. It is now accepted that **BR 18** did operate a disciplinary regime which was inappropriate and at times reliant on striking the boys. Without trying to condone that regime, it is important to note that **BR 18** was in charge of the **DL 11** account is accepted, HIA 18 has exaggerated the seriousness of the assault he suffered.
- 8.95 **BR 2** as recorded within his diaries, was frank and honest both in respect of corporal punishment and physical aggressiveness by his staff. Physical confrontation with the boys did result in chastisement and reprimand from **BR 2**. The Inquiry may well be critical of **BR 2** failure to report these incidents to the various Social Workers. It is noted that Bob Bunting, albeit without specific details of the incidents, testified that he would have expected to have been told of physical assaults. **BR 2** noted and recalled a relatively small number of events, often with little detail as to the seriousness or consequences. Bob Bunting accepted that at times up to 45 Social Workers were going in and out of Rubane regularly and he never became aware of any complaints. We know from HIA 225 and **BR 2** dairies (RUB 1048 & 1049 refer) that Social Workers did field complaints. Furthermore, RUB 60200 establishes that either DL 516 (or a colleague) knew about an assault by **BR 18** in March 1979 yet did not appear to report it to their superiors until after the 1980 investigation surfaced. If the complaints did not reach Bob Bunting, it may well have been because the Social Workers did not consider them to

be of a serious nature. DL 155 considered it noteworthy that boys in general may have felt more at ease discussing physical assaults. With that in mind, if there was a continuity of serious assaults during the 1970s resulting in injury, one may reflect that the Social Workers would have identified same. The fact that they do not appear to have identified any such pattern can, in our view, be taken as evidence of the contrary position, namely that assaults occasioning injury were, leaving aside BR77, a relative rarity.

- 8.96 **BR 10** generally attracted positive praise. HIA 259 and HIA 170 accused him of physically assaulting them and HIA 25 accused him of inaction following an assault by **DL 149**. **BR 10** remains at a loss to explain the allegations as he had good relationships with all three residents while in the Home. HIA 259 gave inconsistent accounts of the events surrounding his assault. There were a small number of other complaints in the police material. **BR 10** was in Rubane for 10 years. He was extremely active on the sporting and recreational side of things and the Order considers him to have been a very positive influence on life in Rubane. The Order does not believe that **BR 10** was physically abusive.
- 8.97 **DL 149** faced HIA allegations of physical assault from HIA's 18, 25, 31 and 41. He denied all of the allegations. **DL 149** did accept that there had been an altercation with a **DL 121** but denied any punch was thrown. **DL 149** was not the subject of any complaint in 1980. **DL 149** in denying assaulting HIA 41, like **DL 81** recalled HIA 41 as 'sly...cute, rather than clever.' It should be emphasised that HIA 41 is documented as being an influence on HIA 25 and these current allegations could have a single solitary source. While **DL 149** denied using corporal punishment he accepted that other staff used a cane or strap. However, he also reflected that the discipline policy focused strongly on the reward and debit system in respect of privileges and that this method was the 'main way of dealing with discipline'.
- 8.98 **BR 77** was convicted of 3 counts of physical assault in 1981. BR 77 accepted before the Inquiry that on occasions he had 'overstepped the mark'. The Inquiry has heard how he was 'quick tempered'. While acknowledging that **BR 77** performed much good work with the boys, particularly on the outdoor pursuits side, the Order notes and accepts the assessment of DL 40 that he was perhaps 'not suited to the role'. The Order accepts that BR 77 was relatively young and inexperienced when he was appointed to his teaching post in Rubane in 1976 and acknowledges that teaching full time in the school and facilitating extra-curricular activities would have been particularly stressful, particularly given the presence of children who were difficult to manage.



and masturbated himself. He threatened the plaintiff that if he told anyone he would be sent to borstal in Dublin and would not see his family. The plaintiff was crying and was told to be quiet. BR 2 told him to remember what he could do to him. The plaintiff says that he didn't talk to anyone because he was petrified. He remembered going home after this on at least one occasion but did not tell his family because he was too scared. He said the abuse increased so that it was occurring two or three times per week. He claims that BR 2 made the plaintiff masturbate him and put the plaintiff's hand on his penis. He says that BR 2 put his penis in the plaintiff's mouth on a few occasions. He says that BR 2 tried to put his penis inside his bottom but could not. He masturbated over the plaintiff. The plaintiff alleges that he always used a white handkerchief to clean himself. On the plaintiff's account the abuse continued for 4 to 5 months but by the end of the trial it was accepted that if the abuse began at the start of April 1982 it must have ended before the end of June that year.

[7] It is accepted that during this period the plaintiff was at home for 18 days during April, 10 days during May and 8 days during June. Because of his fear he did not report the abuse to any member of his family including his older brother and sister. He was at home for the month of July and returned to the home in August to go on a summer holiday to Glenariff. Because of falling numbers chalet closed at the end of August 1982 and the plaintiff moved to chalet where he stayed until transfer to St Patrick's Training School in 1984. He states that he was not abused on any other occasion. There are records which suggest that he settled down at the home after this but he was involved with others in trying to set fire to the school in May 1983 and in 1984 became disruptive apparently as a result of solvent abuse to the point where he had to be removed to St Patrick's Training School.

[8] In 1986 he obtained employment as an and worked for 2 years on the construction of the development in Belfast. He explained that a number of his associates had become involved in the troubles and some were dead. He decided in 1989 to join the . He enjoyed the comradeship and the sense of adventure. When he had been in the for approximately 3 years he and at least one other colleague were drinking. Foolishly they decided to test whether they could jump out of a first floor window without injuring themselves. As a result of attempting this manoeuvre the plaintiff sustained a serious fracture to his right ankle as a result of which he was invalided out of the and subsequently has been effectively incapable of any work involving mobility. His doctors at present are considering whether he would benefit from a below knee amputation.

[9] He came home in September 1992. Within 6 months he was arrested in relation to a murder although eventually no proceedings were pursued in respect of that. He was then arrested in respect of the attempted murder of a well known paramilitary. He was convicted and sentenced to a period of imprisonment. He successfully appealed the conviction on the basis that disclosure established that



- 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – [REDACTED] not back 'marked by **SR 57** [his social worker and doctor involved]

In passing I note that two of these boys, namely [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] felt comfortable coming to me to report the incidents.

45. I note that I submitted that at times difficult boys had to be restrained by physical force. This would always have been 'as a last resort' but we did have some children with very severe problems. We tried were possible to manage these boys in the House, as opposed to the Chalets, so that they could be more closely supervised. My diaries will reveal examples of houseparents asking for me to remove children because of disciplinary issues. It should not be forgotten that many children were sent to us by the Welfare Boards because they could be more closely supervised and controlled in Rubane. These were boys who were outside the control of their own parents. The Welfare Authorities liked the fact that we had a school onsite and the impression I had was that they felt the boys would get better schooling and discipline in the Home than they would elsewhere. By no means am I condoning physical abuse but strict discipline and control was expected from the Home. Reports and letters from Welfare Boards, Probation etc would regularly have referred to the desire to send a boy to Rubane where he could be more closely supervised.

46. Notwithstanding my view that physical restraint and discipline was required at times I did not condone acts of physical aggression on the boys. My diary for 1972 demonstrates that I challenged **BR 29** [REDACTED] about his aggressiveness towards the boys and indeed was instrumental in preventing him obtaining his vows and becoming a full Brother. My Diary records;

- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1972 – 'Had a few words about corp punishment with **BR 29** Not very satisfactory... **BR 3** has a few words with **BR 29**
- 27<sup>th</sup> April 1972 – 'Phoned [REDACTED] ...mentioned **BR 29** omitted deliberately from list of Brothers going on courses.'
- 28<sup>th</sup> June 1972 – Had a long chat with **BR 29** this morning about 1 hour. Probably will go but won't go without an explanation from [REDACTED]
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 1972 – **BR 29** leaves today.

**DL 525** proceeded to full vows. I requested the resignation of a member of the lay staff because of his aggressiveness towards the boys and because of his alcoholism. There was a second instance, in 1982, when I reported another member of the lay staff to the Management Committee and he also was asked to resign.

130. While I personally felt corporal punishment was rarely effective, there were occasions when it was administered for serious breaches of discipline, e.g. violence and abusive language toward staff, continuous absconding, breaking and entering and stealing. The punishment was carried out in the manner prescribed, was witnessed by another member of staff, recorded and the returns sent to the Department, though there may have been occasion when the official returns may have been incomplete or inaccurate. I know that I documented in my diaries occasions when I had to use corporal punishment and generally the reason for administering same. I have to accept that there will have been times when punishment was not carried out strictly in accordance with the regulations and I'm aware of the incident involving **BR 77** conviction. What I can say is that I don't consider that I was personally responsible for over aggressive physical punishment. If I witnessed any of my staff acting inappropriately I would have challenged them about it.

131. There were times when I quite clearly had momentary loss of self control. Looking back -- those were difficult and stressful times. I note my diary entries for;

- 10<sup>th</sup> January 1973 -- hit **DL 315** across the face for being giddy

I note my remorse expressed in feelings of low mood. I certainly don't consider that I was overly physical or that I either administered or condoned physical punishment or physicality outside that permitted by the regulations. I'm glad to note, as **Exhibit 14** details **DL 315** was still 'asking for me'.

132. For minor offences, sanctions included loss of weekend leave, loss of pocket money not being allowed to discos swimming pool, youth club deprivation of T.V. The school, as a separate entity from the Home, had its own code of discipline and was regulated by the Department of Education.

Brothers

De La Salle University Hall,  
Ely Place,  
Dublin.Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

BR 13

reports interference by [REDACTED] With the following boys (Investigation end of Aug. by BR 13

[REDACTED]

BR 17

Was given hint by [REDACTED] that there was some serious charges against him  
Wrote to [REDACTED] re sameHad no idea of what the charge may be. Thought I may be coming to enquire re Regularity  
Items:

- (a) Scabies. Doctor ordered ointment treatment-stripped naked in room and treated once
- (b) Told boys he was allowed to do this-place of parents-taken generally
- (c) Often took boys alone in car
- (d) In office- often gives individual instruction to all boys re morality
- (e) Thinks he has done much good this way.

BR 63

Following boys came to him together - were told by priest to do so

[REDACTED]

BR 63 took no action said he was not professed. Reported the matter to Brothers

BR 63 took no action. Reported the matter to BR 14

BR 63 would not think BR 17 would do such things.

BR 14

- 1. } Reported as to BR 63
- 2. }
- 6. }
- 7. }

BR 14 refers the boys to BR 13

"The more I think over it, the more I doubt it" - his verdict

[REDACTED]  
He says the boys enjoyed telling "yarns" to BR 13 That boys say BR 13 told them he was reporting the matter to Provincial. Boys said Bros. would be changed and they want this to happen. E.  
[REDACTED] BR 63 and BR 14 long talks re [REDACTED]

Says [REDACTED] departure was fixed some weeks ago.

Thinks [REDACTED] was "group" leader in evidence. Says [REDACTED] said so &amp; that he was drawn into the group. Says boys know from BR 14 why Provincial came.

[REDACTED] could not credit that [REDACTED] is guilty  
Says boys had great fun telling stories to BR 13

Transcript of letter from **BR 19** to **BR 17** following an enquiry into allegations made against him.

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 1958

Private and Confidential.

Dear **BR 17**

On the recent enquiry, I am sending you the following report which deals mostly with yourself.

Charges which occasioned the enquiry:

Some boys had reported that you had been guilty of indecent behaviour with themselves and with some others who were also named. One boy acted on the advice of the Chaplain and reported improper conduct once in the classroom and once in the car.

During the enquiry I found that there was no foundation for the charges made by many of the boys. Some of the boys were not aware that their names had been listed among those who were supposed to have been interfered with. These boys have withdrawn any charges they have made and have been instructed as to how they are to act in their next confession as also how they are to deal with their companions and the Brothers.

As I told you there was one boy who firmly adhered to the statement that you interfered with him on one occasion in the car. He was one who was not identified with the small group who were led astray by **DL 439** and who gave evidence on his instructions. This particular boy was ready to stand before you and repeat the charge. He was ready to repeat it before the priest to whom he had already mentioned it in confession. Don't think for a moment that I am accepting his word against yours, but you will readily agree that it is very unfortunate that the charge still stands.

I want to impress upon you the following points:

1. That it was very imprudent of you to strip some boys for the purpose of applying treatment advised by the doctor. This is work for a nurse or a matron, but it can never be done by a Brother.
2. That it was wrong for you to take the boys to your room for the purpose of applying the treatment.
3. That it is very unfortunate that you should have stated to any of the boys that as you were taking the place of the parents, you were entitled to touch them. They have been otherwise instructed by the priest and so you are in bad light with some of the boys.

Regarding the future I am giving some orders:

4. No Brother is to travel with an individual boy in the car on any occasion.
5. A glass panel is to be set in the School Office door.
6. Under no circumstances is any boy allowed to enter a Brother's bed room.

I advise that no reference is to be made at any time or to anybody regarding the enquiry. It is best forgotten and I have told some Brothers that no reference is to be (made) to it among themselves or to the boys. The whole affair is best dropped with the prayer that all will learn the lesson that our holy Rule is very wise in its prescriptions which are so plainly laid down in relation with our intercourse with our pupils.

With all good wishes,  
Sincerely yours,

**BR 19**



PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.


 DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
 CASTLETOWN,  
 LAOIS.

Sept. 14th. 1958.

Private and confidential.

Dear [REDACTED]

On the recent enquiry I am sending you the following report which deals mostly with yourself.

Charges which occasioned the enquiry.

Some boys had reported that you had been guilty of indecent behaviour with themselves and with some others who were also named. One boy acted on the advice of the Chaplain and reported improper conduct once in the class room and once in the car.

During the enquiry I found that there was no foundation for the charges made by many of the boys. Some of the boys were not aware that their names were listed among those who were supposed to have been interfered with. These boys have withdrawn any charge they have made and they have been instructed as to how they are to act in their next confession, as also how they are to deal with their companions and the Brothers.

As I told you there was one boy who firmly adhered to the statement that you interfered with him on one occasion in the car. He was one who was identified with the small group who were led astray by [REDACTED] DL 439 and who gave evidence on his instructions. This particular boy was ready to stand before you and repeat the charge. He was ready to repeat it before the priest to whom he had already vented it in confession. Don't for a moment think that I am accepting his word against yours, but you will readily agree that it is very unfortunate that the charge still stands.

I want to inform you of the following points:

1. That it is very important for you to strip some boys for the purpose of applying treatment advised by the doctor. This is work for a nurse or matron, but it can never be done by any Brother.
2. That it was wrong to take the boys to your room for the purpose of applying the treatment.
3. That it is very unfortunate that you should have stated to any of the boys that as you were taking the place of Parents you were entitled to touch them. They have been otherwise instructed by the Priest, and so you are in bad light with some of the boys.

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1958

- 5th Jan. Voluntary Workers' Committee visit the Home; entertained by boys' impromptu concert.
- 7th " [REDACTED] School Inspector, and St. [REDACTED] visit school.
- 26th " [REDACTED] came to see [REDACTED] took the boy out for afternoon.
- 28 " [REDACTED] DL 434 [REDACTED] admitted.
- 9th Feb. 17 members of Knights of Columbus visited the Home. Impromptu concert by boys. Sweets all round!
- 17th. Annual Meeting of Board of Governors.
- 17th March Celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Party for boys.
- 29th. [REDACTED] leaves for job in Belfast.
- 5th April 26 boys on out for Easter holiday
- 6th. Had Midnight Easter Mass. Feast for boys.
- 12th. Boys return from Easter holidays
- 14th. School re-opens.
- 1st May [REDACTED] boarded out by town Naffan.
- 3rd. [REDACTED] returns.

- 4th May. Legion of Mary from Belfast here to day.
- 24th. 18 boys go to Dundalk. Played hurling and football matches there. Won both.
- 28th. Choir outing to Belfast to see film, "The Ten Commandments."
- 21st June. Lounspatrik High School hurling team here. Rabane Boys win game.
- 29th. Our hurling team go to Lounspatrik High School Sports, & won hurling match there.
- 4th July. School summer holidays begin.
- 18th. [redacted] boarded out on trial with [redacted]  
[redacted]
- 23rd. 20 Boys went out for fortnight's holidays.
- 24th. 50 Boys go to Glenariff for fortnight's holidays.
- 7th Aug. Boys return from Glenariff.
- 9th Aug. The remaining boys return from holidays. [redacted] is being boarded out on trial by Loughborough Welfare.
- 20th Sept. Boys played Lounspatrik in hurling and won by two points.
- 1st Nov. All Saints Day Party for the boys.
- 23rd Nov. [redacted] goes to Newbernards Hospital. Heart attack.

19 Dec. 35 boys go out for Christmas holidays.  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Christmas Party for boys  
 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Forty boys go to Mac Kie's Party in Belfast.  
 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. The boys return from Christmas holidays.

1959

1<sup>st</sup> Jan. Free day New Year's Party.  
 16<sup>th</sup> " [redacted] admitted. [redacted] leaves.  
 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Meeting of Governing Board at Keshmone.  
 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. [redacted] admitted under Gp. Anthony Welford.  
 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
 and [redacted] get employment at St. Columba's, Warrenpoint.  
 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
 17<sup>th</sup> March St. Patrick's Day celebrated; free day and feast for the boys.  
 26<sup>th</sup> March Thirty choir boys go to Belfast to see film: "The Robe".  
 28<sup>th</sup> March Twenty-four boys go out for Easter Holidays.  
 29<sup>th</sup> March Easter ceremonies. Feast for boys.  
 30 " " [redacted] leaves for Scotland, Gp. mother.

DL 483



25th Sept. [redacted] of the English District, paid a short visit to the Home. This evening, the Chairman and twelve other members of North Down [redacted] paid an official visit to the Home. They were entertained to tea and shown over the House and farm. They made a donation of £7 to provide a treat for the boys.

7th Oct. Notification was received from Ministry of Education that the laying of water mains to the school may now be proceeded with.

5th Jan '54 BR 39 and the Voluntary Workers Committee from Belfast visited the Home presented cheque (£3,000) and were entertained to tea.

9th Feb. Members of the Belfast Knights of Columbus entertained to supper. They presented cheque (£4.50) for benefit of the orphan boys.

15th March Boy's team goes to Dundalk Wins hurling & football matches

6th April Midnight Easter Mass for first time

10th May House, School and Farm connected with Public Water Supply

30th June [redacted] arrived from Hopwood Hall Training College to join the teaching staff, and replacing

BR 53

22nd July BR 56 having completed



ish district;  
community;  
and twelve  
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shown over  
a donation  
to boys.  
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of the Home  
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Knights  
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colleges to  
replacing

pleted

his University course, left for  
East London, South Africa to day.  
He had been attached to Kircubbin  
Community since its opening.

1959

During the summer [redacted] from  
Lundalk came to the community to  
recuperate and went back after a  
period of six weeks seemingly much improved.  
[redacted] in the  
Mother House, Rome, also paid us a  
brief visit in the Autumn.

This summer the Dialogue Mass  
was fully introduced for the boys.

[redacted] attended the  
Thirty Days Retreat at Castletown and  
made Final Profession. Early in

BR 66 [redacted] from  
[redacted] as changed to Kircubbin  
while [redacted] from St. Gall's

Community replaced him at St. Gall's.  
A new open air swimming pool  
was constructed in June. Most of  
the work was done by the boys under  
the direction of [redacted]

BR 12 [redacted] had a  
new grain drier erected and a new  
grain grinder and Mixer installed and  
work has begun on the building of two  
dwelling houses on farm near Rabasca  
corner - one for a new [redacted]  
teacher, the other for a gardener.

PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2

DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOIS.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1958

Dear [REDACTED]

On the 14th. inst. I received a letter from Canon Rice, of Portadown asking for an urgent and important interview. I met him in Dundalk on the 18th. You will remember that, during my investigation into that Kircubbin business last Sept. one boy, whom I thought was a leader, had left the Home three days previous to my visit and therefore he had not been interviewed. He is very much in the news in recent days. He has informed his father that [REDACTED] **BR 17** had been abusing him and he gave full details.

The father went to the solicitor, who by good fortune, is also solicitor for the Canon, and told him the story. The solicitor contacted the Canon who in turn gave me details on the 18th. He wanted me to go that night to Portadown and deal with the case. He was very much upset as was also the solicitor whom I met on a few occasions as both were looking forward to the coming of the Brothers to Portadown. To them this charge seemed to be the end of things.

I went to Castletown and collected all the details on the case, which fortunately I had filed and I went to Kircubbin on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Many of the boys who were connected with the enquiry had since left the school and were working in Belfast. These I had collected and taken to Kircubbin. I had arranged with Canon Rice that the [REDACTED] boy would be taken to Kircubbin on the 21<sup>st</sup>. In the presence of the Curate, I interviewed the boy for six hours, took down all his statements and then called various witnesses. Naturally I got him to sign all his statements, many of which were contradictory and at variance with the evidence of many of the boys. After six hours he finally confessed that the charge against [REDACTED] **BR 17** was false. I know that we really used "third degree" in getting the confession from him and only when I told him that I would keep him overnight did he finally confess. This is not very satisfactory and one is left in some doubt. Anyhow the Curate took the boy home to his father who was to be told that the charge was false. Perhaps the matter will end there. I hope so.

Unfortunately, according to English Law, a case of this nature is supposed to be investigated by the police. I don't know if English Law obtains in the Six Counties. Probably it does. We can only keep praying.

[REDACTED] is still in [REDACTED] and he has been there since June. We would need a Certificate allowing him to remain outside a Community.

I am sorry to be sending you the above case and I hope you will hear no more about it.

With all good wishes and kind regards,

Very obediently yours,



PRIVATE

9. The food at Nazareth Lodge was not great. I wanted to ask for more but I didn't dare. **SR 34** was very strict. I remember wearing shorts but can't remember much more about the clothes we were given. It was not an official school uniform that we wore but all the boys wore shorts and similar tops.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (15 August 1959- 27 August 1960)**

10. I was twelve when they told me I was moving to Rubane House, Kircubbin. I recall they brought **NL 64** to see me once at Rubane House for half a day so we had a chance to see speak to each other on that occasion but other than that we had no contact with each other.
11. Rubane House was a very strict place. I was taught by **BR 17** Some of the other Brothers taught as well but I was always in **BR 17** class. It was very strict and there was no messing around. In the afternoon we were allowed to play outside in the yard, or play in the garden or play Gaelic football or hurling in the big sports fields. We got some freedom at Rubane when we were allowed to walk in to Kircubbin to buy stamps.
12. **BR 17** assaulted me during my stay there. I remember I was caught talking to one of my friends and I was punished by **BR 17** I was taken out of class into an office where he told me to drop my trousers and my underpants and then he beat me across the backside. He grinned at me as he delivered this punishment.
13. At night time we used to watch television at one end of the dining room and **BR 17** told me to sit beside him at the back of the room. It was a big room and it was dark and he started to interfere with me. I was upset and embarrassed and he warned me not to say anything. This happened a number of times.
14. During the night in the dormitory when it was completely dark I was woken up on occasion by people having their hands inside my bed interfering with me.



156 159

## My Time In Nazareth Lodge &amp; Rubane House

1948 - 1957

HIA 159

normally locked. We saw lots of toys and parcels that looked like they were gifts that had been sent to the children, but we assumed they did not receive them.

**Force Feeding**

Once when I had not finished my dinner SR 152 ordered me to clear my plate. I told her I couldn't so she picked up a spoon, grabbed my jaw and forced the food into my mouth until all the food was gone. I then had to struggle to stop from throwing up.

On another occasion a few boys and I sneaked down to a large hay barn where they stored fruit to eat some bananas and apples. However we did not find any as it was too dark. The next morning all 80 boys in the whole home were ordered to form rows in the changing room. A nun called SR 34 said that some boys had been seen down at the barn and some apples were missing. Boxes of apples were carried in and we were ordered to eat all of them. After eating 5 or 6 apples they started to run out and they were then cut in half and we had to eat them.

SR 34 said that she hoped we had learnt a lesson. Lots of the boys were ill with stomach pains and had to make lots of trips to the loo.

**RUBANE HOUSE**

Rubane House was a couple of miles outside a village called Kircubbin, of the Gransha Road and main Portaferry Road. I went there when I was 12 years old until the age of 15 to start work.

BR 17

Rubane House run by the De-La-Sale Brothers who were just as viscous as the nuns. Some brothers were easy going but at other times they could be very brutal and some boys were sexually abused and others were physically abused. In class once Brother BR 17 beat a boy called DL 419 with a bamboo cane and he was shaking and crying. The Brother only stopped when he realised that we were all watching him and not looking at books. His bamboo cane was carbonised so that it was hard and wouldn't split. At the tip

BR 17 also sexually abused me on a trip to the Newtownards hospital to pick up NL 69 who had been in for something like tonsillitis or appendicitis. When coming back it was dark, the three of us were in the front, I was in the middle. NL 69 fell off to sleep and the Brother started to interfere with me, I personally wanted to go to the loo but said nothing. He was disappointed at my lack of interest or reaction to all his fiddling.

Another time I was the called up to the blackboard in class and BR 17 suddenly grabbed my ears from behind and banged my head against the board. I had been trying to write something on the board and he got mad at me and shouted "Are you blind, can't you see it".

PRIVATE

the house. All of a sudden he got up from his chair, unzipped his trousers and pushed his penis into my mouth. I tried to fight him off, because I knew that it was wrong. BR 17 made me masturbate him until he ejaculated, then he told me to get out of the office.

16. Another occasion sometime after that, BR 17 took me out of my bed in the dormitory and brought me to a bedroom. He put me across the bed, took down my pyjama bottoms and tried to have anal sex with me. I tried to fight him off, and he started to rub his penis up and down the bottom of my back until he ejaculated and then he put me out of the room again.

17. A short time later BR 17 brought me into a different bedroom at night and made me masturbate him. The fourth incident occurred in the same bedroom. BR 17 tried to penetrate me anally, and again I tried to fight him off because I did not want it to be happening. He rubbed himself up and down the small of my back until he ejaculated. I cannot remember the dates that these things happened, but I know that it was in 1955. I blamed myself for a long time for what had happened to me, until I went to Nexus in 2010. I realise now that it was not my fault, but I would still suffer from very bad nightmares.

18. I shared a dormitory with about 12 or 14 other boys. At night I saw Brother BR 17, BR 14, BR 15 and BR 42 taking boys out of their beds and bringing them to the Brother's bedroom. I cannot remember the names of any boys who were taken at night. There was a lot of sexual abuse going on with the Brothers and although I do not know for sure what the Brothers were taking the boys for, I can't imagine it was for any other purpose. Sometimes I would have fallen asleep before the boys came back, but I was living in fear of being taken out of the room for years: the fear was a form of mental abuse too. I used to be afraid to go to sleep, but if I saw a Brother coming into the dormitory I would lie still. The Brother always seemed to know which boy he was coming for. I never discussed with the other boys what was going on because I was afraid, and did not know what to say about it.



PRIVATE

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1 basement layer of the house in the dining room --

2 **A. Dining room.**

3 Q. -- as you would have known it?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. You describe there you had been watching John Wayne  
6 films and so on, and how three Brothers we have already  
7 talked about, one of whom abused you --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- were interacting with boys.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You describe sitting very close to them and arms round  
12 them. How would you -- if I asked to you characterise  
13 what you mean by that, is there something you would  
14 compare that to that might explain what you are  
15 describing?

16 **A. Well, I suppose, you know, at that time I wouldn't have**  
17 **thought too much about it, but they were sitting with**  
18 **their arms round the boys, but it would be like**  
19 **something you would have maybe seen with a fella and**  
20 **girl in the cinema or something like that, you know,**  
21 **sitting with their arm around the other, you know, being**  
22 **close together.**

23 Q. Is that name you have written a person you recollect?

24 **A. Yes, yes. Very often, nearly every night maybe, you**  
25 **know, for long enough that I can remember anyway.**



1     **A.** Well, I find that hard to believe that they were  
2       checking for the beds to be -- being wet, because I was  
3       12 years of age or 13 years of age. I didn't wet the  
4       bed, and what they were doing inside the bed wasn't  
5       checking the sheets were wet. They were trying to  
6       interfere with you, but because it was so dark there and  
7       you were being woke up in the middle of the night and  
8       within seconds of being disturbed and just sort of  
9       looking round, whoever was doing this had gone.

10    **Q.** And you can't be sure whether that was a Brother was  
11       doing that or other boys who were doing that?

12    **A.** I don't know.

13    **Q.** The -- just for the Panel's record it is at paragraph 5  
14       of the replying statement, 2114, the suggestion about  
15       checking to do with bedwetting.

16           Can you remember how bedwetting -- was that an issue  
17       that -- perhaps not for you or in your dorm -- but can  
18       you remember how bedwetting was dealt with for those who  
19       did have that difficulty?

20    **A.** Only my brother, my younger brother, but that wasn't in  
21       Kircubbin. That was in Nazareth Lodge.

22    **Q.** So you don't remember anything to do with bedwetting in  
23       Rubane?

24    **A.** Not in Kircubbin, no.

25    **Q.** You describe then in paragraph 16, HIA247, if we scroll

PRIVATE

Rubane House, Kircubbin (16 March 1960 – 2 July 1962)

5. I have been shown a document stating that I was admitted to Rubane House on 16 March 1960. I had thought that I had stayed at Nazareth Lodge over the summer months and moved to Rubane House nearer to Autumn but it was a long time ago and I could be mistaken.
6. I recall being transported from Nazareth Lodge to Rubane House because it was dark and someone came up from Rubane House in a car and drove us there in/around 1960. I think it was **BR 17** who drove us to Rubane House.
7. We stayed in a section of the home that they used to call the Old School, it was a separate building from the main building about a couple of hundred yards away. We were there for about two or three months and then all of a sudden my brother and I were moved up to the main house. That is when the problems started. I was thirteen at the time.
8. **BR 17** started interfering with me in all sorts of different places, his office, his car, a workman's hut in the middle of a field on one occasion and also he would take me to his room at night. I recall there was linoleum covering on the floors in the room where I slept and he used to come in wearing his pyjamas and a pair of socks. He wouldn't make any noise on the floor and he would just pick me up and take me into his room. I didn't know what the hell was going on at first. I just had no idea what he was doing and I used to cry but it didn't make any difference to him. He would start playing with my private parts with his hand and putting my penis in his mouth as well. I used to cry a lot as I had no idea what was going on. I had no sexual experience of any kind so I really didn't even know what an erection was and I was wondering what he was doing playing with it all the time. This was a regular occurrence. It happened about once or twice a week for the duration of my stay at Rubane

PRIVATE

House. Sometimes he used to try and get me to do things to him as well. He would put my hand on his penis but I would never do anything with it.

9. **BR 17** would take me out of the grounds of Rubane on quite a few occasions. If he was going to Belfast for some reason in the car he would take me with him. He would rarely take anyone else with him on these trips but he did take **HIA 261** and I to Dublin on one occasion. I think it was in/around 1960 or 1961 when the Irish Army went to the Congo because I recall seeing them parading through Dublin. We visited **BR 17** and she offered to put **BR 17** in the front room and she would put **HIA 261** and I upstairs but he said it would be alright and that I could sleep with him in the front room. I wondered what **BR 17** would think of that proposal but she allowed me to stay with him and he interfered with me that night. I recall I had no pyjamas with me that night so I had to wear **BR 17** nightshirt and **BR 17** masturbated me that night. **BR 17** was living with **BR 17** at the time and he was eleven years older than me. He was my **BR 17** but he is now deceased.
10. **BR 17** did things for my family. For example, he gave my father forty pounds at one stage when he was out of work and needed money. That was the equivalent of a month's wages now. My father had written to him requesting money to repay some debts and for his fare home to **BR 17**. It was a lot of money at the time.
11. One strange thing that happened whilst **HIA 261** and I were at Rubane House was that **BR 17** arranged for us to go and live at his father's home which was in fact **BR 17**. **BR 17** were also living there. I thought they were going to adopt us or that we were going to stay there for a while because we actually attended a new school in **BR 17** at the time for a few weeks. **BR 17** and had the baby when we were there and I think she just could not cope with all of us so we had to return to Rubane House again. **HIA 261** and I were never given any explanation as to what was happening during this brief move to **BR 17**. **BR 17** told us when we had to return to Rubane House that we were to tell anyone who asked



PRIVATE

because it was him who was touching me up and the priest said nothing. I left confession feeling more confused than ever. I thought I had committed another sin by saying the wrong thing.

21. There was one occasion when new swimming trunks were ordered for the boys for the summer. When they arrived [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] picked my brother out and got him to try the trunks on and pick his favourite pair so that he got the best "flashy" swimming trunks. When he brought me in to pick my trunks he brushed up against me then he gave me the worst trunks in the pack. I thought he was trying to even things out because if he gave both HIA 399 and I the best then we would stand out as his favourites.

22. I used to sleepwalk when I was in the home. I woke up one night and I had walked in my sleep in to the bedroom of [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] and I was peeing on his electric heater. He took me to the sink to finish going to the toilet then he put me in his bed and I went to sleep. I woke up feeling his privates in my hand. He tried to have my hands around his private parts and then he put me back to bed. I knew at the time that something was wrong with this behaviour and I avoided him after that and stayed away from one to one situations with him.

23. [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] never went as far as masturbation with me but I think he took things further with my brother HIA 399. I recall about six or seven incidents of sex abuse with me which I would describe as inappropriate touching and they happened mainly in his room. My brother HIA 399 never confided in me regarding his treatment by [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] but I recall having my suspicions when I was in the home that something was going on as HIA 399 received a lot of gifts and cigarettes from [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] BR 17. He gave him presents on his birthday. In fact [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] gave him gifts and signed the card from [REDACTED]. Another Brother in the home whose name I cannot recall said sarcastically to HIA 399 one day, "I see you got another parcel from your [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] – there's no stamp on it!". HIA 399 also had the key to the storeroom that held sweets and Tayto crisps. I never resented him for being a favourite but I felt certain



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of tea and talking to my family as if everything was normal. Later that day, he brought me to a market in Belfast and bought me a second-hand bicycle that cost £5. I remember feeling really guilty as if I was playing the game. I also recall that [REDACTED] was about sixteen at this time and [REDACTED] BR 17 was taking her out often for meals one on one and HIA 399 told me that he had seen [REDACTED] BR 17 and [REDACTED] kissing.

28. I couldn't tell anybody what [REDACTED] BR 17 was doing because he weaved a web and he had me under his control. He was helping my family and putting food on the table. If I told somebody they might not have believed me and even if they did believe me, I would be responsible for my family going hungry. It would be my fault. It wasn't just the physical aspect of the abuse that affected me; it messed with your mind. I remember thinking I hope when I grow up this isn't compulsory, the way Mass and prayers were compulsory. I was thinking I hope this isn't something all adults do because it doesn't seem right at all.

29. That was the last time I saw [REDACTED] BR 17. Just before my thirteenth birthday, my mother decided to move us all to [REDACTED]. I had been doing really well in school in Belfast; I got 100% in Maths in my summer report but once we moved to [REDACTED] I never learned another thing. I was just doing the same thing I had been doing in Belfast. After about a year I was dumped in another home in [REDACTED] just before my fourteenth birthday. All in all, I've been to fourteen different schools and four different homes in my life. I ran away when I was fifteen and I was on the run for three months. I found my mother and went back to stay with her and I informed the police and local authorities of my whereabouts at that stage and I was then sent to a remand home.

30. My time in care affected me deeply. My first marriage was to an alcoholic which didn't go well. I've had long-term depression and psychological problems. I suffer from panic attacks and am on anti-depressants. I've had some bad times where I didn't know if I was going to see the next day but I've just kept going. I've never had a day off work because of depression. Some

1           You then say many mistakes were made. From the  
2           Order's perspective you have reflected on how you dealt  
3           with and handled the allegations in 1958, '64 and '70,  
4           and the understanding of the impact of sexual abuse and  
5           proclivities of perpetrators were very different then.

6           You have tried to understand why BP1 made some of  
7           the decisions he did.

8           "Whatever his reasons in '58, I must conclude that  
9           he made grave errors of judgment. In 1964 minimising  
10          the harm caused by BR14 took precedence over honesty and  
11          transparency. This was a grave mistake, and a real  
12          opportunity was lost to establish a system for the  
13          reporting of sexual abuse and establishing protocols and  
14          guidance to recognise and prevent further abuse and  
15          detect perpetrators. I find it difficult to rationalise  
16          why on leaving office a Provincial would not brief his  
17          successor on abuse issues so as to build a knowledge  
18          base within the Order. There is no doubt that the  
19          Order, like many organisations, must have felt a great  
20          sense of embarrassment about the complaints, and this  
21          led to a certain element of secrecy, which was unhelpful  
22          in educating the Order to the risks of such offending.  
23          I appreciate that my Order shares this failing with  
24          other branches of the church and indeed secular  
25          organisations, but that is of little comfort. We had

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the house. All of a sudden he got up from his chair, unzipped his trousers and pushed his penis into my mouth. I tried to fight him off, because I knew that it was wrong. BR 17 made me masturbate him until he ejaculated, then he told me to get out of the office.

16. Another occasion sometime after that, BR 17 took me out of my bed in the dormitory and brought me to a bedroom. He put me across the bed, took down my pyjama bottoms and tried to have anal sex with me. I tried to fight him off, and he started to rub his penis up and down the bottom of my back until he ejaculated and then he put me out of the room again.

17. A short time later BR 17 brought me into a different bedroom at night and made me masturbate him. The fourth incident occurred in the same bedroom. BR 17 tried to penetrate me anally, and again I tried to fight him off because I did not want it to be happening. He rubbed himself up and down the small of my back until he ejaculated. I cannot remember the dates that these things happened, but I know that it was in 1955. I blamed myself for a long time for what had happened to me, until I went to Nexus in 2010. I realise now that it was not my fault, but I would still suffer from very bad nightmares.

18. I shared a dormitory with about 12 or 14 other boys. At night I saw Brother BR 17, BR 14, BR 15 and BR 42 taking boys out of their beds and bringing them to the Brother's bedroom. I cannot remember the names of any boys who were taken at night. There was a lot of sexual abuse going on with the Brothers and although I do not know for sure what the Brothers were taking the boys for, I can't imagine it was for any other purpose. Sometimes I would have fallen asleep before the boys came back, but I was living in fear of being taken out of the room for years: the fear was a form of mental abuse too. I used to be afraid to go to sleep, but if I saw a Brother coming into the dormitory I would lie still. The Brother always seemed to know which boy he was coming for. I never discussed with the other boys what was going on because I was afraid, and did not know what to say about it.



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19. We were allowed to watch the television in the dining room during the evenings, although we were sent to bed by 9pm. We got to watch movies occasionally, and I remember watching John Wayne films. [REDACTED] BR 14 [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] would sit very close to the boys with their arms around them. It would often be the same boys that I would see being taken out by the Brothers at night.
20. [REDACTED] BR 42 [REDACTED] was a wicked man. He beat me several times, and I witnessed him beating other boys on numerous occasions.
21. I was able to go home for a holiday in the summer, but I cannot remember if it was for a week or a fortnight. On the way back to Rubane after a Christmas holiday, I jumped off the train at [REDACTED] station and jumped over a wall to get away. Someone must have seen me and told the guard, who grabbed me down the street and brought me back to the station. The guards handed me over to the RUC, who called [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] When I was left back to Rubane, [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] brought me into a classroom, made me take down my trousers and walloped me with a stick. He hit me around 15- 20 times, and after the beating I felt blood on my back, but I did not receive any medical treatment for my injuries.
22. In 1958 after I ran away on another occasion, I told [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] that Brother [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] had interfered with me. I told him this because I did not want to go back to Rubane. [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] shouted at me, telling me that I was lying, and that the Brothers were religious men who wouldn't do that. [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] failed to do anything about it. I did not tell anyone else what had happened to me because I thought that they would not believe me and that it would be a waste of time.
23. We got a shilling a week pocket money, which I would gather up and use to buy cigarettes from the post office. The [REDACTED] who worked in there would phone [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] who would be standing waiting on me and would see me smoking. He would bring me into a classroom and beat me with straps or a stick. On another occasion when I was 14 or 15 I got accused of stealing



properly explore this allegation. The Order notes it is alleged to have happened in full view of the class. That type of allegation was not repeated before the Inquiry and the Order doubts the veracity of HIA 160s account as far as they concern **BR 6**. To the contrary, many of the applicants had positive reflections on **BR 6**.

9.39 HIA 244 (64-65) was not sexually abused but recounted suspicions about **BR 15**

9.40 HIA 64 (63-66) described how he struck a 'nightcrawler', whom he identified as Br **BR 15** as he tried to lift the sheets of his bed. He also confirmed that sexual activity among the boys was an 'issue' in the Home but not for him personally.

## 9.2 1962-1964 - Summary

9.41 The Order accepts on the strength of the testimony in general and on what it has come to learn about **BR 15** and **BR 14** that, between 1962 and 1964, both of these individuals were sexually abusing boys in their care.

9.42 Only during the course of this Inquiry has the current leadership of the Order learnt about the endorsement on **BR 14** dispensation that he had abused a 'few boys a year for a couple of years'. That suggests there was more than one victim but it also suggests a relatively limited number. The fact that the Order has received no civil claim naming **BR 14** and there were no sexual allegations against him arising through this Inquiry (bar an interpretation of HIA 97s account) tends to support that view. **BR 14** offending was at a level lower than either **BR 17** of **BR 15** and was also confined to a narrower timeframe.

9.43 The Order maintains that HIA 160's account in respect of **BR 6** is inaccurate. There is no consistency to his complaint and in the absence of hearing from HIA 160 and when the positive reflections on **BR 6** from the residents are considered, it is submitted that this account is simply insufficient to establish abuse.

## 9.3 1964-1970

9.44 HIA 262 (64-68) did not give oral evidence. His statement was summarised. He alleged that he was abused on his first night in the main house at Rubane but he did not name the perpetrator. **BR 14** was located in the main house at this time.

Serious allegations were made against **BR 13**, contrary to the positive recollections which other applicants have reported. Given that the matter could not be explored

PRIVATE

hand up my leg and masturbated me. He had a selection of boys he would do this to. He never made us do anything to him. [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] also masturbated me in the back row of the Majestic Picture House when he took me to see "Jailhouse Rock".

14. From there I was transferred to the farm. [REDACTED] BR 12 [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] I tried to avoid him because he was a very scary man.
15. I was taken to other farms to work instead of going to school. The Brothers were paid for our work. They would have given us one shilling to spend in the tuck shop in Rubane. [REDACTED] BR 14 [REDACTED] was in charge of the [REDACTED] He was vicious when we were playing football and used to be known as a dirty old man.
16. The education I received in Rubane was not good. It was not secondary school standard education. It was more like primary school level education. I do not think I was taught anything. I remember [REDACTED] BR 4 [REDACTED] could hit you if you did not know your spellings. I think he got pleasure out of it. He made us all line up and asked each of us in turn to spell a word and then he hit us if we spelled it wrong.
17. One day in [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED] class he called me up to his desk and put his hands down my shorts and touched my private parts. I was older by then and walked away so he did not manage to do anything to me. There were other boys in the classroom but I was standing with my back to them so they couldn't see anything.
18. I started to play hurling and football. It seemed to bring me out of myself and give me the confidence to stand up for myself. My brothers were not interfered with. Perhaps me being interfered with gave them some sort of protection.
19. I cannot remember having a shower the entire time I was in Rubane. I think that things may have happened to me that I have blocked out.

County Inspector,  
DOWN

Submitted and complied with. *the head man*

Further discreet enquiries into this case reveal that Brother **BR 14** had gone on holiday on 1st August, before the complaint was made against him, and that while he was so on holiday Brother **BR 6** became aware of the allegations and contacted the Head of his Order in Eire. Brother **BR 14** was then collected and brought into the headquarters at Castletown, Eire. This corrects the suggestion that his superiors had been aware of this report before the police were and that the Brother had been removed from the jurisdiction to avoid investigation.

Miss Forrest of Ministry of Home Affairs has been in touch with me regarding this matter. She is endeavouring to assist the Ministry to decide whether or not the school at Rubane should continue to be recognised as an approved voluntary school, with particular emphasis on ascertaining whether this was an isolated incident or whether more boys may have been involved. No decision has yet been made by the Ministry in this matter.

(Signed) J. Platt, D.I.

County Inspector's Office,  
R.U.C., DOWNPATRICK.  
10 Sept., 1964.  
D.12/1/21/64.

District Inspector,  
NEWTOWNARDS.

Noted. F.R. in one month, sooner if there are any further developments.

(Signed) E.A. Ferriss,  
County Inspector

District Inspector's Office,  
R.U.C., NEWTOWNARDS.  
11 Sept., 1964.

Sergt. Greyabbey.

Transmitted for information and compliance.

(Signed) J. Platt, D.I.

██████████, Down WO informed me that ██████████ DL 13 ██████████ of long in their care under a sch. att. fit person order, had been home on leave with his brother in ██████████. He had refused to return to Rubane, confiding to an older married brother and thence to his mother, that Brother BR 14 had interfered with him. This was reported to Welfare who notified Police. The boy was interviewed by Police with Welfare staff present and made a statement to the officer that on three occasions in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July, Bro BR 14 had brought him from the dorm to his bedroom and there committed acts of gross indecency, (though short of buggery) with him.

I saw D. I. Platt, Newtownards, later the same day (4<sup>th</sup> September) and there saw the boy's statement. I saw him and Sgt Hodgett of Greyabbey again on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. DL 13 ██████████ had also named other boys said to know of this sort of behaviour and the boys who have now left were interviewed at Naz. Lodge Club. They denied all knowledge of such a thing.

When Police Det. Sgt. Jeffery went to Rubane to make enquiries, BR 6 told him he knew why he was there and Bro BR 14 had been removed from his post, was at the ██████████ ██████████ and would not be returning. BR 14 is therefore out of the jurisdiction.

I subsequently discussed the case with ██████████ DWO, N'ards before going to Rubane to see Bro BR 6. The sequence of events seems to have been  
 13<sup>th</sup> July – weekend, three alleged episodes (BR 6 on leave)  
 17<sup>th</sup> August – boy makes allegations to his own brother  
 19<sup>th</sup> August – statements taken by Police

BR 6 received some kind of tip off (possibly from N. L. Club?) & went immediately to where Bro BR 14 was on holiday in Eire.

He told Bro BR 14 he could return if he wished to deny the charge. He also reported to the Provincial of the Order. Bro BR 14 did not return but was recalled to Head House and Bro BR 6 now regards the matter as being in the hands of the Provincial.

Although neither Police, nor Bro BR 6, as I can regard the allegation as proved, since as Police saw it, it was possible that the events had happened to the boy elsewhere with another person but he had accused Bro BR 14 as a let- out from returning to the Home. Bro BR 6 appears inclined to take Bro BR 14 non-return as an admission but this is not necessarily so since anyone who could get out of it by staying over the Border might well wish to avoid the [horror] of a trial on such a charge. It should be noted that there were two



PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.



DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOIS.

September 19th. 1964.

Report to the Ministry of Home Affairs on the incident at Rubane.

De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane, Kircubbin.  
Members of the staff on 1/7/1964.

BR 6

BR 12

BR 3

BR 4

BR 13

BR 15

BR 14

Subject matter of Enquiry.

An allegation of immorality against BR 14 by DL 13  
a boy in the Home.

DL 13

is reported to have stated

- a) that on the night of July 13th. BR 14 invited him to his room where immoral relations took place between them.
- b) that this was repeated on two other nights during the week following.
- c) that July 13th. was the first time that BR 14 interfered with him.

On August 21st. I received a report that BR 14 was alleged to have had immoral relations with a boy in the school. BR 14 was on vacation at the time. I summoned him to headquarters where I interviewed him a week later. In the meantime I had received a summary of the boy's statement.

I asked BR 14 for a full and accurate account of what took place between himself and the boy on the night of July 13th. and during the days following.

BR 14 admitted being guilty of immoral conduct with the boy on the night of the 13th. July, but he denied that he interfered with the boy on any subsequent occasion. He stated that the boy came to his room on the night of the 15th. July (approx) but that nothing immoral took place. On that night he explained to the boy that immoral relations between them was very wrong and that what happened on the night of the 15th. was never to be repeated.

When asked to explain his unnatural conduct on the night of the 15th. he stated that he had drink taken and was scarcely aware of what he was doing.

While frankly admitting his guilt in relation with DL 13 he emphatically denied having interfered with any other boy in the Home.

PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.



DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOIS.

2.

He said that the case against him was a single incident with one boy only. 19

The De La Salle Order regards an incident of this kind as extremely grave and immediate measures were taken to ensure that BR 14 would never again be allowed to have any contact with boys in any school.

In view of the seriousness of the case I thought it wise to visit the Home at Rubane and conduct an enquiry.

I arrived on September 18th. and on the same day I interviewed each member of the staff. Without giving any names I mentioned to each Brother that " a serious charge had been made against a Brother " and that any information they could give would be appreciated.

BR 6 knew of the charge and the persons involved.  
BR 12 knew of the charge, for being [REDACTED] he was informed of the case by the Superior.  
Naturally both were greatly shocked at the seriousness of the case. The other members of the staff, while surmising that something serious had taken place, were, and still are, quite ignorant of the incident in question. They did know that the boy DL 13 did not return to the home due to some ' complications ' as mentioned over the phone by Down Welfare Authorities. None had any idea of the nature of the charge or of the person involved. I am quite certain that any one of those interviewed would have informed me were he aware of any misconduct between Brother and boy.

As a general rule the boys would inform the Brothers if they knew of any misconduct in the Home, but of this incident, now a month old, there was never a whisper.

Due to the fact that the boys seemed to be unaware of any untoward incident in the Home I thought it more discreet to refrain from carrying out an individual investigation which would serve no useful purpose, but which would unquestionably undermine the good relationship between Brothers and boys and result in rousing their curiosity.

I deeply regret that an incident of this kind should have taken place in an Institution devoted to the welfare of the children confided to the Brothers by the Welfare Authorities and by the various Committees.

As far as I can judge the extent of the damage done is limited and this in itself is consoling to all concerned.

PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.



DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOIS.

19

3.

As to the present members of the staff in Rubane I can confidently certify that each one is thoroughly reliable, and and in every respect suitable, to carry out the delicate and onerous duties which an Institution of this kind demands.

Signed.

BP 1

BP 1

PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.



DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOS.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.

19.....

- A. Sol. [redacted] L.R. Row-
- B. .. Lin is copy for Disbursement.
- C. .. Made full investigation into Incident.
- d. .. made a report:
- e. Visited Home Office - Stormont. on 21.9.64  
Dealt with the case for two hours.  
Present: [redacted] [redacted] Miss Forest.
- f. They will wrap the Report as 'Confidential'.  
They will not make use of it until we have further info  
+ only if the matter is raised by some public authority.  
Home Office satisfied with the Report will take no further action.



30th September, 1964.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Walker,

We recently became aware of certain incidents during the month of July at Rubane Voluntary Home, Kircubbin, involving **DL 13** a boy in the care of Co. Down Welfare Authority. The incidents were reported to the police, and our Inspector, Miss Forrest, had some discussion with D.I. Platt of Newtownards when she was enquiring into the affair in the course of her duties under the Children and Young Persons Act. (Incidentally, she found D.I. Platt extremely helpful.)

It is quite possible that this case may lead to repercussions, and in view of our general responsibilities for children's homes we are anxious to be in a position to keep the Minister fully informed as to just what action was taken over the affair. For this purpose it is felt here that we should have a full report on police action and findings in the case. I should be most grateful if you could arrange for me to have such a report. It will, of course, be treated as strictly confidential, and I sincerely hope that circumstances in which we need to refer to it will not arise at all.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Walker, Esq., O.B.E.,  
County Inspector,  
Royal Ulster Constabulary,  
Brooklyn,  
Knock Road,  
Belfast, 5.

J. H. PARKES

[REDACTED]

I am sorry I have not been able to submit earlier these papers relating to the trouble at Rubane this Summer.

The sequence of events is set out in Miss Forest's minutes of 10/9/64.

You will see from these papers that we have discussed the matter with the police, the Manager, the Provincial of the de la Salle Order, and officials of Down Welfare Committee. The following points emerged: -

- (1) All concerned are satisfied that these were isolated incidents, and that the person responsible – Bro **BR 14** – has been removed from all possible contact with the boys – at Rubane or elsewhere
- (2) The authorities of the home, and of the Order, have been frank and co-operative. Bro **BP 1** . [REDACTED] called her to deliver his report. After a frank discussion Miss Forrest and I were satisfied that he had investigated the situation thoroughly and that his conclusions were reasonable.
- (3) Police action against Bro **BR 14** is impossible while he remains outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) There are now no grounds for further action on our part in relation to the Home itself, though we shall lose no opportunity of impressing on them the importance of having enough staff: it is at least possible that if the staff didn't have such large numbers to cope with the incidents would have come to light sooner, though they might not have been presented.

JHP

16/11/64

[?]

I consider you should see their papers

The Minister has seen these papers.

25.11.64

Note for files C.859 and W.146

RHG/EC.

24th September, 1964.

DL 13 (d.o.b.

Miss Forest, Children's Inspector, Ministry of Home Affairs, telephoned me to-day and said that the alleged incidence involving **DL 13** at De La Salle Boys' Home had been investigated by the Police and by the Provincial of the Order. The Provincial had informed the Ministry in writing that he was satisfied that this was an isolated incidence and that no other persons were involved. He would also ensure that the man concerned would not be put in a position in the future where similar occurrences could take place. I told Miss Forest that in the circumstances no further action appeared to be necessary. Miss Forest had also discussed the matter with **BR 6**

Miss Forest said that **BR 6** would be prepared to go and have a talk with **DL 13** if we thought this would help in any way.

Director of the home, a [REDACTED] <sup>30</sup> BR 17 [REDACTED] BR 14 the 1964 perpetrator, appears to have been one of three members of staff at Rubane in 1958 to whom boys initially disclosed the abuse. Significantly, it would seem that the Provincial Superior did not share with the MoHA or the police any information about the 1958 allegations and his subsequent investigation, either at the time the allegations were made or during their considerations of the 1964 incident. The Provincial Superior had also been made aware in 1958 and in August 1964 of allegations of child sexual abuse against a [REDACTED] BR 69 (albeit with reference to incidents in the Republic of Ireland – see paragraph 34 below). He was therefore well aware of the potential for those in positions of trust to abuse children.

24. The 1964 disclosure would appear to have been the first disclosure of its kind received by Miss Forrest and Mr Parkes. Had the Provincial Superior shared the vitally important information about the 1958 allegations with the MoHA and the police, the Ministry and the police might have questioned the conclusions about the isolated nature of the 1964 incidents.
25. As already accepted by the HIAI, it is difficult to judge the handling of past events by currently accepted standards. Today, for example, of central importance in a current situation would be the need to establish a strategy for the investigation of the issue in accordance with child protection policies and procedures. Such a strategy would, of necessity, seek to establish whether other children had been abused and would provide opportunity for them, if relevant, to disclose abuse within an interview situation that was sufficiently independent of the staffing within the home.

#### Question 6

**Whether the Department, on reflection, considers that the response to this incident was a systemic failing. If so, in what way? If not, why not?**

26. MoHA officials, in their considerations and actions relating to the 1964 incidents:
  - met immediately with the police and the Director of the home to consider the allegations and their implications<sup>31</sup>;
  - identified key questions to be addressed regarding the incidents, including the need to be certain that abuse had in fact taken place; and if so, to be assured that no other children had been involved and that abusive practices were not widespread;<sup>32</sup>
  - gave consideration, according to a police report<sup>33</sup>, as to *“whether or not the school at Rubane should continue to be recognised as an approved voluntary school with particular emphasis on ascertaining whether this*

<sup>30</sup> RUB 210 and 212-13

<sup>31</sup> RUB 1014-1019

<sup>32</sup> RUB 1014-1019

<sup>33</sup> RUB 1013



the "*charges of immoral conduct*" alleged by the child against Brothers BR 83, BR 1 and [REDACTED] to be "*devoid of all foundation*"<sup>28</sup>. It is unlikely, however, that the fact of the 1948 allegations and the subsequent investigation were known to officials dealing with the 1964 Rubane incidents which occurred some sixteen years later.

20. The sexual abuse by staff of children in institutional care was not recognised as a potentially much wider issue in Northern Ireland until the early 1980s when the Kincora scandal broke. Indeed, the sexual abuse of children within families and the community also appears only to have been fully recognised in its own right around 1984 when Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards began collating statistics on the incidence of child sexual abuse.<sup>29</sup> Therefore, in the light of prevailing knowledge (or lack of it) about sexual abuse in 1964 as well as the apparently implicit trust placed at the time in the caring nature of religious orders, it is understandable that the Provincial Superior's report, which deemed the incidents to be an isolated issue between one member of staff and one child, appeared to the MoHA to have reached a reasonable conclusion. As noted above, both the MoHA and Belfast Welfare Department sought assurances to this effect. They were assured that the perpetrator had been removed from all contact with boys in Rubane or elsewhere. The police also, having interviewed past residents named by [REDACTED] DL 13 found no further complainants.
21. In view of this it is probable that in 1964 the MoHA would not have deemed it necessary to issue guidance or take any other measures on a wider scale to guard against what was believed at the time to be a one-off episode and wholly uncharacteristic of the institutional care of children in general.

#### Question 5

**Whether the Department, on reflection, is of the view that the Ministry's response to this incident was adequate or otherwise**

22. The Department believes that the actions of the Ministry (see paragraphs 26 and 27 below) were consistent with both the information they were given and the knowledge about child sexual abuse that existed at the time. As already noted, (paragraph 20), child sexual abuse disclosures even in respect of children in families and in the community were rare, to the extent that there were no agreed processes for responding to such allegations. It is understandable therefore that professionals and others were predisposed to questioning the veracity of those who did disclose, particularly where an allegation was made against a member of staff of a children's home who was also a member of a trusted clerical order.
23. The 1964 situation was nevertheless significant, in that the perpetrator admitted at least one incident of abuse. It is also important to note that the Provincial Superior who investigated the 1964 incidents in Rubane had already carried out an investigation in 1958 regarding allegations of sexual abuse against the then

<sup>28</sup> RUB 255

<sup>29</sup> see paragraphs 40-43 of the May 2014 Departmental Supplementary Statement



Government of Northern Ireland  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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Telegrams: Homaff, Belfast

Telephone: Belfast 63210

Any reply should be addressed  
to: THE SECRETARY

Our reference: TC.165

Your reference:

18th November, 1964.

Dear **BR 6**,

Thank you for your letter of 14th November, from which I note that you wish to proceed with the development of intermediate education facilities at Rubane. In order to do this you will wish to provide for 80 boys and I am now writing to confirm that the Ministry will be prepared to recognise Rubane as a Home for 80 boys, subject to the following conditions:-

(1) We shall not be able to give this recognition formally until suitable accommodation exists for 80 boys. However, I think it would be reasonable to assume that we shall reach agreement in due course on the form of the provision to be made for additional places and that these places will in fact be provided.

(2) We shall require an assurance from you that the Home will be adequately staffed. In this connection I cannot stress too strongly the importance, whatever future developments may be and whenever they may take place, of providing at the earliest possible date an increase in the staff at Rubane. Eight years ago the Child Welfare Council suggested that for children over five an appropriate staff ratio was one full-time member of staff for every six children. This excludes domestic staff, cooks, etc., and we would argue that strictly it should also exclude full-time teachers. I need hardly point out how unfavourably the staff:children ratio at Rubane compares with this recommendation. Recent events have given added point to our feeling that where such a small staff has so much to do for so many children the development of a satisfactory relationship of trust and confidence between individual children and members of staff is virtually impossible.

To sum up, we are prepared to say that we will recognise Rubane as a Home for 80 boys, subject to the provision of additional accommodation on agreed plans and to a considerable increase in staff. I am sure we shall be able to reach some sort of agreement on the former point; we would be glad of an assurance from you on the latter.

Yours sincerely,

*J. H. Parkes*

**BR 6**

De La Salle Boys' Home,  
Rubane,  
Kircubbin,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down.

PROVINCIAL MOTHER HOUSE.



DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN,  
LAOIS.

SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 1964.

BR 14

The Most Honoured Brother Nice [REDACTED]  
Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Most Honoured Brother,  
I beg with regret for a Dispensation  
from my Perpetual Vows which I made in [REDACTED]

The reason for my request is "grave immoral actions  
with a number of boys".

I remain, with the most profound respect,

Most Honoured Brother,

Your most humble inferior,

BR 14

Besides being a positive danger to young people, BR 14 has lost the religious spirit.  
I recommend that he be granted a Dispensation from his Vows.

BR 19

Visitor.

Telephone: CASTLETOWN 2.

**DE LA SALLE RETREAT,  
CASTLETOWN, LAOIS.**



Sgptembex.12tu.....19LL.

[REDACTED], Vicar General, Casa Generalizia, Roma, C.P.99B.

Very Rev. and dear Brother Vicar General,

I have more trouble en my hands. I enclose a request for a Dispensation for **BR 14**

[REDACTED]. I have asked him to make this application as just now he is a positive danger to the others. During the past three years he has interfered with boys, a couple each year. He has lost the religious spirit and there is no hope of saving him.

I enclose the executed Indult for

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your letter of the

21st. August. I gave [REDACTED] a Canonical warning as directed. I advised him to apply for a dispensation but he was not prepared to do so.

I am sorry to give you all this trouble This has been my worst year so far, and I hope that I have seen the last of such unsavory matters.

With deep affection and cordial greetings,

I remain,

Very obediently yours in Christ,

/

a

Visitor



must be concluded that such scrutiny might have had the potential to alert the police, the MoHA and the authorities responsible for children's care that the sexual and physical abuse of children in Rubane was more prevalent than the presenting complaints suggested. The Department believes that as a consequence of vital information having been withheld in relation to the 1964 investigation, an opportunity which had the potential to lead to earlier recognition of the vulnerability of children in institutional care was lost.

### Concluding statement

19. When investigating the context in which physical assaults and alleged homosexual abuse of children took place in Rubane, the Committee of Inquiry into Children's Homes and Hostels, (The Hughes Inquiry) came to certain conclusions which had implications for the role of the DHSS and its predecessors during the period 1960-1989. The Hughes Inquiry found:
  - SWAG's record as to the frequency of inspections of Rubane was satisfactory up to 1976. The absence of a formal inspection between 1976 and March 1981, the latter after the discovery of offences at the home, was unsatisfactory;<sup>15</sup>
  - The inspections of the 1970s as a means of gaining a genuine insight into the standard of care in the home were inadequate<sup>16</sup>. The Hughes Inquiry, however, contrasted the former inspections with the scope and follow-up of the 1981 inspection which *"illustrated a form of frank dialogue between the Department and the home's management which we consider to be worthwhile."*<sup>17</sup>
  - The Board of Governors did not meet its obligations to arrange for visits and reports under the 1975 regulations. There was no evidence that the Board actually recognised that these obligations existed<sup>18</sup>;
  - The Board of Governors and Management Committee should have required a greater degree of accountability from the Brothers than existed in the period under consideration<sup>19</sup>.
20. The Department did not challenge the findings of the Hughes report in respect of inspections of Rubane. It accepts that whilst inspections were conducted regularly in the early years and were reflective of the standards at the time,

<sup>15</sup> The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Children's Homes and Hostels. HMSO 1986, Paragraph 10.22.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid* Paragraph 10.22.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid* Paragraph 10.24

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid* Paragraph 10.18

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid* Paragraph 10.51

him know that Bro. **BR 14**  
was interfering with a boy or  
boys.

as far as I can  
gather the Welfare is pretty  
sympathetic towards the case and  
am looking for a guarantee  
that the Home is a salutary  
place for boys to be sent to.

Sorry to have to  
burden you with these  
rather depressing bulletins.

Your obedient inferior,  
Bro. **BR 6**



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happened to me. All I want is for them to realise that I told the truth all those years ago.

16. I have kept in contact with some of the ex residents from Nazareth Lodge and Rubane House and we have reunions on occasion. We had genuine good times. We were well fed and looked after. You got up early and went to mass every morning, had breakfast and went to school. I don't have any formal qualifications but I think I am intelligent. The teachers were strict but good.

17. The food was excellent. Cereal for breakfast and maybe boiled egg and toast. I couldn't complain about it.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (20 August 1968 – 9 May 1972)**

18. I lost my innocence within two days of going to Rubane House. I was eleven years old at the time. The brothers did not know I had family outside but my mother turned up one Sunday to see me. The brothers took a special interest in me. **BR 15** was in charge of the dormitory that I was in and the first night I was there he came in and woke me up. He told me to come with him and brought me into his room near the dormitory. I remember the smell of incense. He made me take off my pyjamas and lie on his bed. He sexually abused me. I was naked and he started to touch me. He lay down beside me and he put my hand inside his robe and told me to touch his penis and to rub it. I felt dirty and disgusted and wanted to get out of the room. I started to cry and he told me if I didn't stop he would give me something to cry about. The abuse continued over a period of four to five months. At times he would have brought one or two boys in to the room to abuse them. **DL 271** was with me on one occasion. I remember he was called **DL 140** as he was **DL 140**. My way of coping with the abuse was to try to blank it out.

19. Finally I told my mother about the abuse and she didn't come near me for about six months. She did not know how to deal with the problem. She knew about the abuse because the resident priest in Rubane at the time, **DL 140** knew what was going on. I knew that other boys had reported incidents

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shotgun. I was terrified. [REDACTED] made me lie down on straw and take down my trousers and he felt all over my penis. He knew I was afraid. He gave me three shillings and a cigarette and then I went back to the home. I think he may also have been abusing [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] only abused me once. After this incident [REDACTED] tried to sexually abuse me in the oil tank house but I stood my ground and he did not succeed. I think [REDACTED] is in prison in [REDACTED]

29. For a while we weren't allowed to associate with other chalets. We were isolated from them by the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were [REDACTED] nuns had a chalet next door to us [REDACTED]. They were teachers and they were good. I believe the [REDACTED] were sacked from Rubane.
30. There was a secondary school on site but we never learned anything. The nuns did take an interest in teaching us. They taught English and Geography. The Brothers were not good teachers. I don't think they had any interest or else they didn't think it was worthwhile to teach us and they just went through the motions. I couldn't even tell the time at thirteen years of age. There was no real effort from the Brothers in relation to education and that was a serious failing.
31. I was later moved to the main house where I got my own room. I was about fourteen years old. This was unusual because we normally slept in dorms. I was sexually abused twice by [REDACTED] **BR 15** in his room. On both occasions [REDACTED] **BR 15** simulated sex with me by putting his penis between my legs and moving up and down. Afterwards he gave me a packet of Embassy cigarettes.
32. One day [REDACTED] **BR 15** promised me cigarettes so I went to his room in the main house and opened the door. He was standing up and a boy called [REDACTED] **DL 271** who came from [REDACTED] was lying on [REDACTED] **BR 15** bed. Both had their trousers down and it appeared as if they were having sex. [REDACTED] **BR 15** shouted at me to get out and threw a packet of cigarettes at me. I didn't tell anyone about this because I was afraid of being beaten by [REDACTED] **BR 15**



contrary, there is evidence of late night abuse when presumably other Brothers were sleeping, abuse in vehicles and of abuse under cover of darkness or the mask of friendly behaviour within the cinema. Without placing too strict an interpretation on **BR 14** 'admission,' he may not have commenced abusing boys until after Br **BR 17** had left Rubane.

- **BR 14** reaction to the 1958 investigation complaints does not read like a man who is at risk of similar allegations, with him seemingly being a proponent of the boys reporting the matter further.

9.35 Surviving Brothers have often reflected on why boys, if they were being abused, would not report abuse. It was interesting at this early stage [and we will see further reference to it later] that;

- HIA 183 in answer to a question from the Chairman accepted that if he had relations it would have made reporting more straightforward.
- HIA 247 said he would have a 'fear' of talking to the Priest.
- HIA 399 couldn't talk to anyone.

9.36 Even in the 1970s the HSCB witnesses' general tenor was that they would have expected boys to have reported abuse to their social worker. HIA 183's reflection points perhaps to the lack of any bond of trust with any other adults, that one may expect with a family member. Yet HIA 399 had a family member and still felt unable to report. There is clearly a variety of reasons why the residents maintained a general silence and this may be an issue upon which the Inquiry will wish to reflect when considering what the Order, Social Workers or Inspectors should have noted.

9.37 The Order concedes that between 1955/56 until 1962 **BR 17** and Br **BR 15** were interfering and sexually abusing boys at Rubane.

The Order does not accept that any Brothers present between 1951 and 1953 abused boys at Rubane.

## 9.2 1962 - 1964

9.38 HIA 160 (61-65) did not give oral testimony. A medical report was provided. His accounts were summarised.

In his statement to the Inquiry HIA 160 alleges that he was sexually abused by Br **BR 15** and **BR 6**. The Order does not accept the allegation against **BR 6**. HIA 160 at RUB 66393 told the police in 1997 that during class **BR 6** 'tried to put his hand up [HIA 160s] trousers. At RUB 66395 he told the PSNI in July 2011 that **BR 6** 'tried to feel me on my privates over my clothing'. In his statement to the Inquiry HIA 160 stated that **BR 6** 'put his hands down my shorts and touched my private parts'. While it is accepted that there is a broad similarity in complaint the inconsistencies are material. The Inquiry has not been given an opportunity to

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woman was my mother. In all my time at Nazareth Lodge I had no other visitors other than [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. I had no social worker and I do not remember any inspections.

**De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin (12/08/1957 – 13/07/1960)**

13. I was transferred to Rubane House on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1957. Nazareth Lodge was horrendous and going to Rubane was like stepping out of the frying pan into the fire. Brother **BR 17** was in charge. He came to collect about twelve of us from Nazareth Lodge in a minivan. I was in a dormitory in the big house for a year or two. There were two or three dormitories in the big house with eight or nine boys in each one. After a while I was transferred to the smaller house near the farm. There were two dormitories in the smaller house.
14. I found Rubane very intimidating. We did not receive a good education. I think everyone was educationally slow. There was no competition and there was no extra help. I was in the choir and I could only read The Lord's Prayer in Latin because I was taught it.
15. There was a **BR 66** who was in Rubane for a couple of months when I first arrived. He had a lot of compassion. He was the only person who took time with us and realised the importance of education and made you feel important. He was the first person who taught me how to tell the time and he taught me how to write my name. I remember crying when he left. He was the only one who made me feel important and he made me realise how important it was to get an education. No one else seemed to care about our education. I think they thought we were damaged goods and were beyond teaching.
16. I also remember an occasion in school when **BR 17** called me to the front of the classroom and asked me what we were learning. I replied we were learning the hymn. He threw me over the table and beat me black and blue with his fists. This was because I said "hymn" instead of "Latin". One of the boys in the class eventually shouted out "it's Latin you're learning". So I said "it's Latin". He only stopped when I said that. I was sobbing really hard. I was not right for

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19. We were allowed to watch the television in the dining room during the evenings, although we were sent to bed by 9pm. We got to watch movies occasionally, and I remember watching John Wayne films. [REDACTED] BR 14 [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] would sit very close to the boys with their arms around them. It would often be the same boys that I would see being taken out by the Brothers at night.
20. [REDACTED] BR 42 [REDACTED] was a wicked man. He beat me several times, and I witnessed him beating other boys on numerous occasions.
21. I was able to go home for a holiday in the summer, but I cannot remember if it was for a week or a fortnight. On the way back to Rubane after a Christmas holiday, I jumped off the train at [REDACTED] station and jumped over a wall to get away. Someone must have seen me and told the guard, who grabbed me down the street and brought me back to the station. The guards handed me over to the RUC, who called [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] When I was left back to Rubane, [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] brought me into a classroom, made me take down my trousers and walloped me with a stick. He hit me around 15- 20 times, and after the beating I felt blood on my back, but I did not receive any medical treatment for my injuries.
22. In 1958 after I ran away on another occasion, I told [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] that Brother [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] had interfered with me. I told him this because I did not want to go back to Rubane. [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] shouted at me, telling me that I was lying, and that the Brothers were religious men who wouldn't do that. [REDACTED] DL 411 [REDACTED] failed to do anything about it. I did not tell anyone else what had happened to me because I thought that they would not believe me and that it would be a waste of time.
23. We got a shilling a week pocket money, which I would gather up and use to buy cigarettes from the post office. The [REDACTED] who worked in there would phone [REDACTED] BR 17 [REDACTED] who would be standing waiting on me and would see me smoking. He would bring me into a classroom and beat me with straps or a stick. On another occasion when I was 14 or 15 I got accused of stealing



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that we had been staying with our parents but they had broken up again and we had to return to the home.

12. [DL 416] slept in the bed opposite me and he told me that [BR 17] [BR 17] had also interfered with him on one occasion during the summer holidays. This happened in/around the time that [HIA 261] and I had been taken away to stay with the family of [BR 17] [REDACTED]. I am not entirely sure where the summer holiday took place but Cushendall rings a bell.
13. [BR 17] used to buy me presents all the time. He bought me binoculars, a concertina, a radio, a drum kit and a bicycle. I could not keep the bike at Rubane House so I left it with my father and the other presents I kept in a spare room in the building so that anyone could play with them. I never said these items belonged to me and I never told anyone that [BR 17] [REDACTED] had bought them for me. [BR 17] [REDACTED] told me that if anyone asked I should say that my father had bought them for me. I obviously had mixed feelings towards [BR 17] [REDACTED] as I knew that he was buying me gifts to keep me sweet but I hated what he was doing to me and did not feel that I could talk to anyone about it.
14. I saw my brother [HIA 261] often when I was at Rubane House. [REDACTED] We [REDACTED] were together all the time. He slept in the bed next to mine. There were about ten of us in this big room and there were another couple of brothers up at the far end of the room. The other boys were close in age to [HIA 261] and myself. The accommodation I suppose was comfortable and plain enough.
15. My recollection is that we used to get school meals brought in during the week and I think they had a cook there who used to cook our meals at the weekend. I think the food was alright and I wasn't starved. Food and clothing and accommodation were all basic but alright.
16. We only had a shower once a week. We couldn't even have a shower if we came back from playing football, we just had to strip down to our waists and have a wash. We used to have to line up in the yard somehow and the Brothers would come and check if you had washed yourself properly. They



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of tea and talking to my family as if everything was normal. Later that day, he brought me to a market in Belfast and bought me a second-hand bicycle that cost £5. I remember feeling really guilty as if I was playing the game. I also recall that [REDACTED] was about sixteen at this time and [REDACTED] BR 17 was taking her out often for meals one on one and HIA 399 told me that he had seen [REDACTED] BR 17 and [REDACTED] kissing.

28. I couldn't tell anybody what [REDACTED] BR 17 was doing because he weaved a web and he had me under his control. He was helping my family and putting food on the table. If I told somebody they might not have believed me and even if they did believe me, I would be responsible for my family going hungry. It would be my fault. It wasn't just the physical aspect of the abuse that affected me; it messed with your mind. I remember thinking I hope when I grow up this isn't compulsory, the way Mass and prayers were compulsory. I was thinking I hope this isn't something all adults do because it doesn't seem right at all.

29. That was the last time I saw [REDACTED] BR 17. Just before my thirteenth birthday, my mother decided to move us all to [REDACTED]. I had been doing really well in school in Belfast; I got 100% in Maths in my summer report but once we moved to [REDACTED] I never learned another thing. I was just doing the same thing I had been doing in Belfast. After about a year I was dumped in another home in [REDACTED] just before my fourteenth birthday. All in all, I've been to fourteen different schools and four different homes in my life. I ran away when I was fifteen and I was on the run for three months. I found my mother and went back to stay with her and I informed the police and local authorities of my whereabouts at that stage and I was then sent to a remand home.

30. My time in care affected me deeply. My first marriage was to an alcoholic which didn't go well. I've had long-term depression and psychological problems. I suffer from panic attacks and am on anti-depressants. I've had some bad times where I didn't know if I was going to see the next day but I've just kept going. I've never had a day off work because of depression. Some

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of the bin or sneak in to their dining room to steal food. The Brothers caned us if they caught us. I was caught a few times. My grandparents used to bring us up food but it was a waste because it would have been thrown in the bin by the Brothers if the older boys didn't get it. We weren't allowed to keep anything that made you different from the other boys.

18. [REDACTED] lived on the [REDACTED] and they would get a bus out to Kircubbin to visit me every Sunday. It was a 2 mile walk from the bus stop in Kircubbin out to Rubane and I used to ask one of the Brothers if they would go and collect them but it would depend what mood they were in.

19. The abuse was the most sinister thing about Rubane and there was a lot of it going on by the older boys. Some of the older boys would approach you in the classroom and tell you to be at the toilets at a certain time. They would make you perform oral sex on them. If you didn't go they would find you and beat you up so it was just easier to go when you were told to. You learned to stay away from them. Now and again one of the Brothers would call you in and say if a certain boy touches you, you were to tell them, which you did. I told Brother **BR 3** about the abuse by the older boys but he did not do anything about it.

20. I was cleaning the stairs and one of the Brothers told me I had to go to Brother **BR 65** room to help him clean his robe as he had got paint on it. Brother **BR 65** brought me in and locked the door. The abuse did not happen straight away. He had apples and oranges and biscuits and he would sit and talk. Then one day he told me to lock the door and told me to take my clothes off and he started doing things to me. He would digitally penetrate me and put me on top of him and kiss me. I always felt like it was my fault because I never tried to stop it or put up a fight but I suppose I was too young to know what to do. It happened about twice a month for a couple of months. He was a teacher and I was always terrified when I was in his class that he was going to ask me to stay behind after class. One day I noticed I was bleeding from my back passage and

xviii. *The Brother Director shall be careful that the parlour doors have glazed panels without curtains, in such a manner that the interior may be easily seen. It should be the same for the greater number of rooms, and especially the Procure, the Linen-Room, and the Infirmary. If there are two or more contiguous parlours in a house, the partitions and doors of separation should likewise be glazed and without curtains*  
*Rule of Gov 142 (26)*

34. Each Brother was required to study the Rule, the life and writings of the Founder and the History of the Institute. The aim in the Novitiate was to form the Brothers, first of all as good Christians and secondly as consecrated persons dedicated to the work of the Order which was the education of youth. The study of the Rule was a vital part of a young Brothers time in the Novitiate. A chapter was examined each week. No one aspect of behaviour was singled out.

35. Brothers were obliged to report serious breaches of the Rule to the Superior

36. The Provincial made an official Visitation of each Community once a year to ensure that the Rules and regulations of the Order were being observed.

i. *All the Brothers, even the Brother Director, are obliged to inform the Brother Visitor in private, whether any Rule is not observed, and also to mention what may be the cause. The neglect of this duty may lead to serious consequences. For this purpose, every Brother shall make a special examination on the Rules and practices of the Society, to see whether they are punctually observed. In this examination, the Brothers should avoid all prejudice which might lead them to exaggerate a Brother's defects, or to imagine that they see such as do not exist. The Brothers should understand that it is not through a spirit of criticism or censure that they should speak, but in the interests of the Community, and for the re-establishing of regularity, should it have suffered.*

*Rule of Gov Page 109 (5)*

ii. *All the Brothers shall, with much simplicity, render an account of their conduct to the Brother Visitor with regard to regularity and their special work.*

*Rule of Gov Page 109 (6)*

iii. Reddition (Personal Interview)

37. Each Brother had regular personal interviews with the Director and with the Provincial on the occasion of the Annual Visitation. During these interviews, he had to give an account of his work and his conduct. He was obliged to report any serious breach of Rule in the community. We believed that anything reported in the Personal Interview was to be treated with the same confidentiality as that of the Confessional.

38. Brothers Communities were generally small of 3 to 10 Brothers. There was a strict timetable and it was almost impossible for a Brother to do anything without the Community knowing about it.



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flashbacks of these humiliating and degrading attacks. The nuns operated in a medieval vacuum and ignored the consequences of their actions.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (23 August 1955 - 24 December 1956)**

10. I was transferred from Nazareth Lodge to Rubane House on 23 August 1955 leaving behind my two brothers. I stayed sixteen months at Rubane House and had no contact throughout that time with any of my brothers, sisters or my father and I knew nothing regarding their whereabouts.
11. My time at Rubane House was very difficult and distressing. We had tasks to perform every day and we had to work in the fields picking potatoes. I also recall doing work for farmers in the area. I was only eleven years old and was expected to carry extremely heavy loads and there was no thought given to how this would affect me physically.
12. [REDACTED] BR 53 and [REDACTED] BR 17 were physically abusive, brutal, vindictive and intimidating. They hit me across the face, on the back of the head and legs regularly and at times the force of their blows was so great and the punishment so excessive that it knocked me off my feet. These two Brothers often beat the boys in the home in this way for minor misdemeanours.
13. The standard of education at Rubane House was poor as I do not recall ever being in a classroom during my time there. I left the home with a poor standard of education and no qualifications.
14. I was sexually abused by one brother and I think it might have been Brother [REDACTED]. He was in charge of fitting out the boys with clothes. He would grope my genitals regularly from I arrived at the home until I left. He would come to my bed at night and lie beside me and put his hand down my pyjamas. On other occasions he would come up behind me in his office and put his hand down my pants. He never threatened or warned me not to tell anyone about these incidents. He acted as if it was normal behaviour. It always made me feel



De La Salle University Hall,  
Ely Place,  
Dublin.

### Summing up

1. Brothers acted wrongly in interviewing the boys and in particular BR 13 and BR 14. Boys in question knew why I was in the House, got word from BR 14 via [redacted] BR 13 was particularly at fault in these interviews and should have sent word to the Vtr. at once. They seemed to assume the [redacted] was guilty. They did not realise the harm in talking together re the [redacted]
2. BR 17 acted wrongly in treating boys for scabies - when naked  
BR 17 did wrong in telling any boys that he was allowed to "touch" them. His explanation was that when he realised he should not have treated them he tried to cover it up. He treated them because there was no matron or nurse to do it.  
BR 17 was imprudent in taking these boys out alone in the car  
He has given perhaps too much guidance re sex to the boys. His explanation was that the boys were given to bad habits in Nazareth ? and some others who come in from Welfare authorities. Found that two years ago there was much wrong doing among the boys. Claims he has now stopped it.  
I learned from the boys- many of said this is true. They did not know they were doing wrong but BR 17 explained things to them and now try to be good.
3. Of the 9 boys who were mentioned as having being wronged by BR 17  
2 have left the school - no evidence  
6 have stated they were never wronged by BR 17  
[redacted] withdraws one charge (classroom) but firmly adheres to the car incident  
This cannot easily be ignored!
4. Many boys do not know the meaning of bad things - calling names, fighting etc.  
BR 17 denies he ever did anything wrong with any boy and has no recollection of interfering with [redacted] Would not do such a thing. One is left with a slight doubt!

### Re future

Driver never go out with one boy in car

[redacted] drive less & let BR 14 do the driving

Glass panel in office door

Divide up certain work so that boys cannot say [redacted] has pets

Less emphasis on formal teaching re sex - Prayer, Presence of God, Goodness

Improve supervision in grounds and in camp.

### Terms

[redacted]

Daily Routine (contd.)

Boys who are allowed to stay up should be careful not to disturb others when going to bed.

The Brother attached to each unit is responsible for night care, but, in cases of necessity e.g. illness, disturbance, it would be expected that other staff should not ignore what is happening.

Weekends:

Saturday 10.00 a.m. .... Rising, Breakfast, Housework.  
 11.00 a.m. .... Yard & Playhall.  
 1.00 p.m. .... Lunch  
 2.00 p.m. .... Line - up, Activities, Outings, Competitions.  
 5.00 p.m. .... Return to chalets.  
 6.00 p.m. .... Supper.  
 6.45 p.m. .... Free Activity  
 7.30 p.m. .... Return to chalets.  
 10.00 p.m. .... Bed - time (at the discretion of staff)

Sunday 9.00 a.m. .... Rising etc.  
 10.00 a.m. .... Mass  
 Remainder of day as on Saturday.

GUIDELINESA to Z

Absconding: First - Loses all pocket money for one week.  
 Second - Loses all pocket money for one week + privileges for one month.  
 Third - Loses all pocket money for one week, privileges for one month and weekend (after consultation between Manager and Houseparents.)

Absences should be reported as soon as possible, so that R.U.C. and S.W. may be informed.

Accidents: If an accident occurs, whether personal injury or damage to property regardless of how minor it may be, it must be reported to the Manager's office. In cases of serious accidents full written reports should be submitted by the member of staff on duty.

Allowances: Should be viewed as remuneration for residential and school conduct, cleanliness, housework, co-operation. The current (1980) allowances are as follows: £3.00 per week; £8.50 for birthdays; £8.50 for Christmas. Allowances are given out on Thursdays and Fridays of each week. Boys are expected to save a small amount for outings, Discos, Films and buying gifts.

Bed Wetting: Boys should be requested to leave their shorts and pyjamas in the laundry basket. They should also have a shower when rising.

Bed - Time: Weekdays - 10.00 p.m.  
 Weekends - At the discretion of staff on duty.

well have had genuine reason to lift quilt covers to check bed sheets. We worked with [REDACTED] to devise a solution to this problem; stopped cocoa at nights, and woke the boys at night. At one stage we did try to introduce alarmed undersheets but they were hyper sensitive and with alarms going all the time were abandoned. Against the backdrop of [REDACTED] BR 15 role it may be easier to understand how he was able to 'access' the boys dormitories without raising suspicion among the other staff. I'm also conscious that some residents from that era speak highly of [REDACTED] BR 15

116. I was in Rubane when [REDACTED] BR 15 was 'removed' from the home in February 1971. In my diary I have recorded the visit of the Provincial [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] BR 6 to see [REDACTED] I noted [REDACTED] BR 15 'poor form' and his discussions with [REDACTED] BR 6 and Br [REDACTED] I must have realised that there was an issue to do with [REDACTED] HIA 36 as why else would I record [REDACTED] BR 6 visit to his mother but I was not privy to the nature of the allegation, or the extent of it, made at that time. I was not told about the allegation by [REDACTED] BR 6 until after [REDACTED] BR 15 had left. I was shocked. My diary records that [REDACTED] BR 15 leaving was a 'sad day' as quoted to me by the ancillary staff in Rubane given his [REDACTED] year service. It was not until the RUC investigation of 1995 that I again encountered allegations about him. Even after he left I picked up no information or vibes about his conduct in the way I had after [REDACTED] BR 14 left. He served with both [REDACTED] BR 17 and [REDACTED] BR 14 I understand from [REDACTED] HIA 36 that [REDACTED] DL 140 also knew about his complaint. [REDACTED] DL 140 did not discuss the issue with me. [REDACTED] DL 140 was very genuine with the boys and very concerned about their welfare. If [REDACTED] DL 140 knew I can only assume that he was reassured by [REDACTED] denial of her sons' credibility, as revealed by [REDACTED] BR 6 RUC statement, and by [REDACTED] BR 15 being removed from the home.

## BR 17

117. [REDACTED] BR 17 moved from Rubane to a role in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I never worked with him in Rubane. I met him a few times in the 1970s on visits to Downpatrick and never heard anything untoward about him. I was on the Board of Governors of the Grammar School in Downpatrick between 1991 &

strong denial by BR 15 and the mother's comment to BR 6 that HIA 36 was not trustworthy.

52.8 Does the Order accept that it was a mistake not to report to the police?

In hindsight, and bearing in mind current safeguarding protocols and what we know about abusers it is accepted that the matter should have been reported but at the time, the Order dealt with the matter fairly much in accordance with the standard response at that time and in a fashion not dissimilar to that overseen by MHA in 1964. The Brother was removed from the home and transferred to another Community in [REDACTED] where he would not have access to children. According to our current safeguarding policy an allegation or even a strong suspicion of abuse would be reported to the police and left to them to investigate the matter. It should be noted that BR 6 was heavily involved in the previous incident in respect of BR 14 in 1964.

52.9 If the Order does not accept it was a mistake not to report – why not?  
N/A

53 Kircubbin 1977 – 1980 - BR 1

53.1 Description

In 1980, a number of boys alleged that BR 1 sexually abused them under the pretext of giving them a 'medical examination' on their arrival at the Home or shortly afterwards. BR 1 claims that when boys were admitted to the Home, because there was no doctor or nurse available, he gave them a cursory examination to ensure they were free from hair lice, nits, body lice, skin rashes, scabies etc. It was an opportunity also to notice any bruises, birth marks, tattoos or scars by which they could be readily identified.

53.2 Reported to in the Order

On 12th April 1980, the Bishop sent for BR 1 and suspended him and told him not to return to Rubane.

53.3 What the Director of the Community did?

The accused, BR 1 was [REDACTED]  
BR 6 as [REDACTED] until BR 2 was appointed in June 1980.

53.4 What the Provincial did?

Br. Columba Gallagher, Provincial, was not informed about the situation until after BR 1 had been suspended by the Bishop. BR 1 was assigned to secretarial work in the Provincialate in Dublin. The Provincial interviewed him at length on many occasions about the allegations but he strenuously denied the allegations. Shortly after this BR 1 developed a malignant tumour of the spine. The PPS decided not to pursue proceedings against him. After major surgery he had a remission for a number of years but developed a further malignant tumour of the brain from which he died on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2000.



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to me and said "you are being transferred today down to Rubane House in Kircubbin because you are too young". [REDACTED] BR 4 then drove me down to Kircubbin.

De La Salle Boys Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin (28<sup>th</sup> March 1979 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 1980)

5. [REDACTED] BR 1 was the Head Brother of the home. On my first day in Rubane, everything went well until [REDACTED] BR 4 left. [REDACTED] BR 1 brought me out of the office and took me up to the games room. He told me that he had to do a medical test on me. He started looking in my ears and my mouth. He then asked me to undress and told me that he needed to check for rashes, as he didn't want the other boys getting any. I started to take off my shirt and he asked me to remove my trousers. He then started to fondle and grope me around the genital area. This was the first time I had experienced anything like this and I didn't know how to react or what to do. Any time I saw [REDACTED] BR 1 he would have tried to tickle me and pretended to play about but he was grabbing me in places, and trying to touch my backside. I tried to stay away from him after that.
  
6. There were four chalets, and there were boys living in the big house as well. I was in Chalet four. There was a woman called [REDACTED] DL 89 in charge, as well as [REDACTED] DL 509 [REDACTED], who lived down in the cottage at the farm. [REDACTED] DL 89 lived in a bit of Chalet [REDACTED] that was sectioned off for her. [REDACTED] DL 89 was nice enough to me. Any time she was locked out of her house, she would have come over to the school and got me because I was the smallest and could climb through her window. [REDACTED] was in charge of Chalet [REDACTED]. I stayed in a dormitory with four beds, with my own brother, and two other brothers, the [REDACTED]. The beds were quite hard. They were like a box with a bit of wood on top, and then just a mattress.
  
7. We had to do chores every day. There was a rota. We did the same chores for one week then swapped to another chore. Chores involved cleaning the washroom or games room, brushing up around the living area, or setting the

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: .....

DL 40

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"]:

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: SCHOOLBOY

ADDRESS: KIRCUBBIN DE LA SALLE BOYS' SCHOOL.

TO BE COMPLETED  
WHEN THE  
STATEMENT HAS  
BEEN WRITTEN

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

Dated this 24th day of April 19 80 .

(Sgd) J R Short

SIGNATURE of MEMBER by whom  
statement was recorded or received.

(Sgd) DL 40

SIGNATURE of WITNESS

I came into Kircubbin Boys' School in September 1977. Prior to this I had been staying in Nazareth Lodge on the Ravenhill Road. On different occasions BR 1 has rubbed the inside of my chest under my shirt. He has also patted me on the bottom but this was always over my trousers. Once when I wasn't listening in class BR 77 beat me up with his fists. He didn't cut me but he did hurt me. Around the summer of 1978 I caught DL 64 (S1) and DL 62 in bed together. I don't know what they were doing but the bed clothes had been pulled over their heads. DL 86 who has since left the school caught both of them on again. This was about 3 weeks ago. When I came to the school there was a boy called DL 59. We were down at the pool and I was having a smoke. He told me he was a fruit and asked me to play with his body. I said no and left. This was the only time that he approached me although he tried it on with most of the new boys. He has been caught on a number of times fruiting by other boys. DL 43 DL 43 and DL 87 were two of the boys that caught him on.

SIGNATURE of WITNESS: (Sgd) .....

DL 40

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10. I had no complaints about the food in the home.
11. I went to school in the grounds. I do not recall having any problems at primary school.
12. My mother would visit about once a month and I would spend an hour or an hour and a half with her. We would usually just sit and talk to each other in the staff room but I remember a couple of times we went out to the park. **NL 5** would sometimes threaten that if I did not do something she asked she would ring my mother and not let her come to visit me. She would play those sorts of mind games with you. I never told my mother about being beaten in the home because you were too afraid to tell anyone.
13. I stayed in the Lodge until I was eleven and then I went to Rubane House, Kircubbin.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (29/8/1974 – 1979)**

14. At Kircubbin, **BR 1** was very "touchy feely". In or around 6.30 pm he used to walk up and down the yard. I remember walking with him and he would touch you and try to put his hand down your back. One day I was standing beside him and he tried to put his hand down my back and then down the front of my trousers and I pushed his hand away and he just laughed it off. I was there quite a few years when that happened. There were frequent rumours about **BR 1** behaviour but often it would be made out by the rest of the boys that it was in fact the fault of whatever boy was involved in the rumour at the time. They would accuse that boy of being "queer" or lay the blame with the boy rather than with **BR 1**. Obviously from what I hear now there was an alternative motive but that is as far as he went with me because I wasn't having it at all.



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found me and took me back to Rubane. I never bothered with him again after that.

5. When I first arrived in Rubane, **BR 1** was in charge of the home and then **BR 2** took over from him.
6. I got in to a fight one day with another boy. He was a lot bigger than me and really violent. I have never been beaten up so badly. **BR 1** just stood and watched and made no attempt to pull him off me. He turned his back and walked away.
7. When I first arrived in Rubane it was like a tightly run ship. You were only allowed to be in certain areas, for example the TT room, the play hall, the yard or the chalet. You could only smoke in the TT room. There was a lot of fighting went on in that room. You were not allowed to be out of bounds. You had to be in the TT room for quarter to nine every day and they would count you and make sure you were all there. **BR 1** would stand close to you and touch your bum when you walked in past him. He would do it to a few of the boys as they passed. After the count you made your way over to school. It was about 100 yards to the school. After the count was the best time to run away as you could disappear on the way over to school. I ran away a couple of times. The Brothers would get other boys to chase us. I was lucky not to get caught. I remember being in class a few times and Brothers coming in and asking for volunteers to hunt down boys who had ran away.
8. After a couple of months my younger brother left as he could no longer handle the violence. There was a lot of bullying. I could handle myself but my younger brother couldn't. My older brother left as he was nearly sixteen. After that I was left on my own. I went to stay with my older brother in **[REDACTED]** for a couple of weekends. On those weekends I would leave the home on Friday and spend most of the weekend rioting as there was nothing else to do.
9. We went to mass every Friday and Sunday. There was a chapel in Rubane. It was an extension added on to the main house. There was a local priest from



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always touching the boys. One of his habits was to put his hand up the back of the boys shirts and pretend he was just tickling them but we all knew there was something not quite right about his behaviour. He tried this inappropriate touching on with all of us and this went on for a long time.

34. **BR 2** was head of the home at that time. He became ill and did not in fact return so **BR 1** was in fact put in charge of the home at that stage. I was always getting into mischief with my friend **DL 188**. Our classes were joined together one day and he got me to spill a glass of coloured water in the classroom but I did not realise that this was part of another boy's GSE work for art class. **BR 3** said he would have to report us to **BR 1** and a few days later I was called to his office. **BR 1** said **DL 188** and I were always getting into trouble and he would have to break us up. He said he would have to send **DL 188** to a different chalet and I would have to go to St Patrick's. I knew St Patrick's was where all the really bad boys went so I was terrified with this threat to send me there. When he saw my reaction he said he would have to send **DL 188** to St Patrick's instead but this upset me even more as I did not want **DL 188** to end up there either. He told me there was a third option and that is when he put his arm around me and said I was not too bad and perhaps it was **DL 188** bad influence over me. He mentioned my third option and next thing he put his hands down and felt around my private parts. He stood up and had his arm around me and as he lifted his robes I could see that he had nothing on underneath. I froze and I felt myself starting to panic. He said he wanted me to do him a favour and he was forcing me down onto his penis and into my mouth. I felt as if I was about to gag and I tried to pull my head away but he kept pulling me in to him. I broke away from him but he grabbed me and threw me against a filing cabinet and started to slap me. He kept using the threat to send me to St Patrick's if I did not do what he wanted me to do. He wanted me to continue to give him oral sex but I could not do it. I got to the door but he slammed it closed and threw me back again on to the filing cabinets. He was still trying to force me and I started to shout and scream and at this point he locked the door and tried to get me to calm down. He started hitting me again and I was in hysterics. He grabbed me by the foot

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up to **DL 69** as a great **DL 69** player. Whilst I was a De La Salle, Brother **BR 1** abused me. He openly fondled boys regularly. I saw him putting his hands down boys' trousers, both front and back in the school yard. All the residents were aware of **BR 1** and what he was doing. Whilst in the shower on a Thursday night **BR 1** always took one or 2 boys into the shower. There were two showers. He would always let me get into the shower. He would then open the shower curtain and you had to put your hands out to get shampoo. The RUC told me it was the shampoo over the boys' bums he loved. When I was covered in shampoo **BR 1** fondled me, masturbated me and made me masturbate him. He would turn the shower water round or off so as not to get himself wet. This happened both in the shower and the urinal room and also sexual penetration, by this I mean that he had anal sex with me. This happened up until I left, regularly, but not every Thursday. It also happened in **BR 1**'s office. One day I was medically examined, this was with one of the doctors in Kircubbin Village. There was a lump on my testicles. An appointment was made for me to attend Newtownards Hospital. Brother **BR 1** took me to the hospital. I was then taken to see a doctor at the hospital. When I got back to De La Salle **BR 1** took me to his office and told me to take my trousers down. I was standing naked from the waist down and he was sitting in his chair. **BR 1** then medically examined me, he was known for his medical's, then he started masturbating me. He took out his penis and made me masturbate him. He had hugged me and kissed me on the cheek. **BR 1** was a very quiet mild mannered kind person. He was never aggressive but forceful. I think I was around 16 years old when this happened. When I left Rubane House I had an operation to have the lump on my testicles removed. Also when I was at Rubane House, **BR 1** came to me and told me that I had a visitor. I was sent into the room beside **BR 1**'s office. I was not long there. This was about 2 years before I left De La Salle. When I went into the room the visitor was Father Brendan Smyth. I was shocked to see him. He was sitting at the end of the table with his back to the fireplace. When I went in I sat next to him but he told me that I had to sit on his knee. He asked me how I was doing and that he had missed me. He immediately began to fondle me and eventually took my shorts down. He

- (i) There is no record of what DL 40 told **BR 1** exactly.
  - (ii) There is no record of **BR 1** having told the Provincial.
  - (iii) There is no record of **BR 1** having told the Bishop of Down & Connor.
  - (iv) There is no record of **BR 1** having told the RUC.
  - (v) **NL 199**, DL 40's social worker, was not told about the complaint.
5. The Order accepts that **BR 1** also received a complaint in respect of a physical assault by **BR 77** on **DL 48** on or about October 1979. This complaint was an issue before the Hughes Inquiry and is referenced at RUB 40016/17. Fr Peter McCann gave evidence that he became aware of the incident via Fr O'Connor and the Catholic Family Welfare Social Worker. Fr McCann recounted that **BR 1** accepted that the allegation was true. **BR 77** confirmed before the Inquiry that **BR 1** warned him as to his future conduct. I am aware that **BR 1** told the police in 1995 that he notified the Management Committee. If Fr McCann's recollection is correct then it appears that the Management Committee were alerted to the incident by a third party. The incident was not reported to the Provincial.
  6. **BR 1** supervised showers in the main house on Thursday and Friday nights. A number of boys referenced this behaviour in 1980 and 1995. Supervision in the showers was necessary, to prevent horseplay and to ration the shampoo appropriately.
  7. **BR 1** was the primary subject of the 1980 police investigation. Out of approximately 124 residents that were interviewed, 29 made allegations against **BR 1** in respects of medical examinations and inappropriate touching/over familiarity in the playground. There were no allegations of anal rape, oral sex, or masturbation. These allegations were not made until 1995 and subsequent thereto.
  8. The Order accepts that there were 'rumours' pertaining among the boys that **BR 1** was 'queer'. The Order's view is that these rumours arose because of the medical examinations and the overfamiliarity in the playground. While accepting that some boys may have had genuine reasons for not reporting knowledge of or direct experience of abuse by **BR 1** one would have thought that at least one of the 124 boys interviewed would have reported or alluded to more serious sexual abuse, if it had actually occurred. For this reason, the Order has difficulty accepting that **BR 1** engaged in more serious sexual acts, to include anal rape.
  9. On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1994 **DL 59**, who was abused by Fr Brendan Smyth at Nazareth Lodge and Rubane made a statement to the RUC [RUB 60389] alleging that **BR 1** had made another resident, **DL 91** anally rape **DL 59**. He further alleged that **BR 1** frequently forced the boys to partake in sexually activity with each other. As a result of these allegations **BR 1** was arraigned on various charges, one of which was 'aiding and abetting buggery' which was reported by the newspapers as 'buggery'.



10. We know from the evidence of some applicants to this Inquiry that there is a story behind every allegation and that some allegations lack credibility. The Order did not, and still does not accept, the veracity of [DL 59] allegation. No other former resident, either in 1980, 1995 or since has corroborated the type of allegation made by [DL 59] namely that [BR 1] encouraged or forced the boys to engage in homosexual behaviour while [BR 1] watched. [DL 91] was subsequently killed in a [ ] accident. The opportunity to speak to [DL 91] has been lost. [DL 59] brought a Civil Claim against the Norbertine Order and the De La Salle Order. He subsequently discontinued the action against the De La Salle Order. The allegations of [DL 59] did not form part of the Bill of Indictment against [BR 1] suggestive perhaps, that the RUC did not believe [DL 59] allegations.
11. It was only after [BR 1] appeared on TV, leaving Newtownards Courthouse charged with 'buggery', following [DL 59] December 1994 allegations, that allegations of a more serious nature started to emerge.(see 12 below)
12. On the bill of indictment there were 3 complainants who alleged buggery against [BR 1] at Rubane, namely;
- (i) [ ] HIA 262
  - (ii) [DL 124]
  - (iii) [DL 205]
- The remaining charges related to 'indecent assault' which arguably could have materialised under the guise of a medical examination.
- It must be emphasised that neither [HIA 262] nor [DL 124] were in Rubane with [BR 1]. It is accepted that [DL 124] would have been in St Patrick's with [BR 1]
- [DL 205] was in Rubane. He alleged buggery subsequent to a medical examination. His statement dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 1995 post-dated the media reports of 'buggery' on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1995. [DL 205] is not an applicant to the Inquiry and his account has never been tested.
13. There was a further allegation from a [DL 139] dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 1995 that, during his residency in St Patricks Training School, he was abused by Br [BR 1] together with another Brother. The RUC did not believe [DL 139] account.
14. It is not known how many former residents were contacted by the RUC in 1995 or how many made statements. However, from approximately 50 statements that the Order has identified within the material, including those of HIA 41 and HIA 259, there is only one additional statement alleging 'buggery' against [BR 1]. The allegation is contained in the statement of [DL 49] namely that Br [BR 1] and [ ] (BR77), acting together, buggered him. BR 77 denied that allegation when it was put to him by Inquiry Counsel.
15. The general tone of the 1995 complainants was that they focused on medical examinations, inappropriate touching and watching the boys in the showers.



The allegations against **BR 1** are summarised in the Order's statement of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 [RUB - 5968] and the Inquiry is respectfully asked to refer to it again. The Order accepts that **BR 1** did conduct medical examinations and did put his arm around boys in the Home and touched them inappropriately. The Order notes DL 40's recollection that he did not consider it was an issue and clearly didn't believe there was a sexual motivation to it. It also notes HIA 170, at least until relatively recently, shared a similar view. However, the Order accepts that the said behaviour was inappropriate, constituted an assault, made the boys feel uncomfortable and was abusive.

The Order does not accept the totality of HIA 41's evidence and is firmly of the view that he lacked credibility in general. He offered no explanation for how it was that he spoke to the police on a significant number of occasions and brought Civil Proceedings against other defendants before making any allegations against **BR 1**. We are of the view that HIA 41's recollection has been heavily influenced by media reporting.

HIA 259 appeared in general a more credible witness. It is difficult to reconcile his account against the general body of complaints against **BR 1** which largely confined his offending (whether one looks at the 1980 or 1995 material) to the 'inappropriate touching.' It is important to stress that HIA 259's August 1995 interview post-dated the newspaper reporting that **BR 1** had been charged with 'buggery'. We would also seek to emphasise that HIA 259's evidence contained discrepancies in respect of his accounts about physical abuse by **BR 42** and **BR 77** (the **BR 77** analogy) and he is not in our view as reliable as may have initially appeared.

- 9.89 The account of DL 155 is important in respect of the 1980 investigations and conclusions therefrom. He formed a view that the RUC approached the matter appropriately 'wanting to help the boys and the boys to help them'. Contemporaneously, DL 155 was more impressed by the physical allegations than the sexual allegations which he felt may have had a more 'natural explanation'. When asked about this he recounted that boys would have said that if 'they were upset or distressed **BR 1** would have comforted them by putting his arm around them'. Crucially, while accepting that adolescent boys would find it harder to discuss sexual issues he confirmed that he did not form the view that there were issues relating to sexual complaints which the boys were not disclosing.
- 9.90 **BR 77** was convicted of a physical assault. HIA 41 and HIA 25 allege that he raped them. We would refer again to HIA 25's ABE interview and his statement that he did not believe that he had been abused until he had been told by HIA 41. We do not consider these two accounts provide evidence of corroboration but rather evidence of contamination. HIA 41's evidence is unreliable. Further allegations of sexual abuse by **BR 77** were made by HIA 218 and HIA 219. They have given inconsistent and contradictory accounts and we do not consider their evidence should be given any

4.

The boys in general did not seem upset by their experience however we both felt they looked poorly dressed, and several mentioned they received birthday money of £2 which seemed very low.

We were given to understand by the RUC that the next developments would be as follows:

- (a) Medical examinations on those boys who admitted full homosexual activity.
- (b) Interviews with certain of the boys' social workers.
- (c) Request for certain files:
- (d) Interview **BR 1** and **BR 77**
- (e) Further interviews with some boys.

Following this investigation we both consider that all the social work staff involved with Kirribbin be made aware of the police action as soon as is practically possible to minimize potential problems in a very delicate situation.

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26. I can't remember ever telling [REDACTED] about the sexual abuse but I told her about [REDACTED] SR 34 [REDACTED] and the beating in the chapel.
27. I stayed at Nazareth Lodge until I was nearly eleven years old. I thought Nazareth Lodge was scary and rough but I remember being told by a nun, I can't remember her name, but she said you thought we were bad here, just wait until you get to Rubane House. I remember that fear of having it hard then and them telling us that it was going to get worse. I couldn't sleep and I didn't want to go. I can't remember who went with me that time but there would have been a group of us who were moved at that age. [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED] picked us up in a mini bus and brought us to Rubane House, Kircubbin.

**Rubane House, Kircubbin (16 August 1966 - unknown)**

28. I remember when I went to Rubane we were handed rosary beads by [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] He told us don't lose them or we would get beaten. [REDACTED] BR 6 [REDACTED] was in charge of the home at that time.
29. I stayed for a year in the main house. After that I stayed for about a year in the old school down in the farmyard. There was a school down in the farmhouse, there were dormitories down there too. [REDACTED] BR 13 [REDACTED] was in charge [REDACTED] at the time. During this time they were building the new chalets on the site. I was moved to Chalet [REDACTED] in/around 1969. I don't remember a lot about my time in Rubane House. I was five years there and ten years in Nazareth Lodge. The worst time I had there would have been when I was brought into Chalet [REDACTED] When I was about twelve or thirteen they had built chalets and done away with dormitories.
30. There were [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who were employed to look after fourteen boys each. My [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] DL 135 [REDACTED] DL 134 [REDACTED] was not a very nice person. He took me in to his room once and showed me books on the facts of life, a man and a woman having a relationship and he just started groping me a bit on my private parts. I thought that was a

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minister, you're not going back again". After that they stopped me from going to [REDACTED] for a year because I wasn't being taken to the Roman Catholic Church.

11. My Aunt told me they wanted to adopt me but my mother wouldn't give permission. I would have been happy there and had a great start in life and had a family bond. It broke both our hearts when I had to go back. The only good memories I have of my time in care are my holidays to [REDACTED]
12. That is all the memories I have of Nazareth Lodge. I'd say there are a lot of other things that happened but I have blanked a lot of things out. The emotional and physical punishment has stayed with me.

De La Salle Boys' Home, Rubane House, Kircubbin (20/08/1968 – 25/06/1972)

13. I left Nazareth Lodge and went to Rubane House in Kircubbin on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1968 when I was eleven years old. I was only given a couple of hours notice. I was taken there in a minibus driven by either [REDACTED] BR 6 or Brother [REDACTED] BR 2 with about twelve other boys from Nazareth Lodge.
14. When I arrived there I was initially put in a dormitory in the big house with twenty to thirty beds in it. After a while I was moved to a chalet. I was moved to Chalet [REDACTED] BR 13 [REDACTED] DL 134 and [REDACTED] DL 135. It was regimental with the [REDACTED] DL 134, DL 135. She was a very bad tempered woman and he was a bully. Brother [REDACTED] BR 13 was nice. I have no complaint about him. I think he was afraid of [REDACTED] DL 134 [REDACTED] DL 134. I think there were fourteen of us in that Chalet. I had one of two single rooms and the rest were divided into three dormitories with four beds each. When I was in my single room there were always boys coming in and exposing themselves to me. It went no further than that. They were probably interfered with and thought it was normal.
15. I was sexually abused by [REDACTED] DL 134 on one occasion. We were being taught the [REDACTED] by a man called [REDACTED]. I can't remember his surname. [REDACTED] DL 134 [REDACTED] DL 134 collected him and left him home. I remember [REDACTED] DL 134 taking me with him once to leave [REDACTED] home and on the way back in the car he made me



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fondle him. He fondled me too. He threatened me to not tell anyone so I constantly lived in fear of him. He has passed away now. **DL 135** is still alive and lives in **██████████**

16. I was never sexually abused by anyone else but I knew that boys were sexually abused by the brothers. My friend **HIA 21** told me that **BR 15** abused him in the shower.

17. I went to school on site there too. We were taught by the brothers, two nuns from **██████████** called **SR 33** and **SR 162** and other lay teachers. I suffered abuse by a lay teacher called **DL 6** who taught **██████████**. He called everyone derogatory names like "fat head" and he would say it was a waste of time teaching us. If I didn't get the piece of **██████████** I was making right he would hit me over the head with it. **BR 4** and **BR 6** knew that **DL 6** was violent because the boys would have told them but they did nothing about it.

18. I felt that the brothers didn't care about our education, like the nuns in Nazareth Lodge, and they didn't try because we were orphans and they thought it was pointless.

19. The daily routine was getting up, going to school, coming back, maybe cleaning your room, having dinner and then **BR 13** would say prayers with you in the evening, we watched television for a while and then went up to bed about 9pm.

20. I do not remember ever being visited by social services during my time in Nazareth Lodge, Rubane or after I left care. I do not remember any type of inspections in either Nazareth Lodge or Rubane.

21. When I was about fifteen I remember playing tennis up against the chapel wall when a Brother came and told me I had an hour to pack as I was leaving. Before I left the Brothers told me I was starting as a **██████████** in the **██████████** Hotel which the authorities or someone must have organised for me.

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25. On one occasion I was abused in the shower. Chalet [REDACTED] had a private shower room. In the shower there was a glass panel door. DL 134 brought me into the shower with an older boy called DL 136. I think DL 136 was about fourteen. Then DL 134 watched us showering by looking through the glass as he masturbated. He created the scene so he could get pleasure. He locked the door from the inside. DL 136 masturbated himself and then both he and Mr DL 134 groped me around the penis and bum. I was told by DL 134 not to tell anyone and I didn't because I was afraid. I think DL 134 forced DL 136 to do it because I can remember his face, he was sort of half crying. There were rumours around at the time that DL 134 was bugging a boy called [REDACTED] DL 124. DL 124 later went to [REDACTED]. One night I needed a drink of water and I opened the sitting room door and saw DL 134 on the sofa with a boy called [REDACTED]. DL 134 shouted at me 'get the f\*ck out'. I think DL 134 also abused other boys in Rubane called DL 94 and [REDACTED].

26. I remember one time the [REDACTED] forced all fourteen boys from my chalet into Mr DL 134 car. It was a [REDACTED] which was a small car. He drove us to visit DL 135 mother in [REDACTED]. We didn't want to go but we were made to go. I think this was around 1970.

27. I was in Rubane about two months when I was abused by an older boy called DL 104. He made me masturbate him and he masturbated me. Another boy called DL 95 tried to feel me up in the grass outside but he didn't get his way.

28. Strangers that lived in the local area were abusing boys in the home. One of them was known as [REDACTED]. His real name is DL 230. He lived down the road from Rubane and always went round with his shotgun. On one occasion [REDACTED] made me go with him to a derelict farmhouse. [REDACTED] was the go between for [REDACTED] and the home and [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] to bring new boys up to him. The farmhouse was outside the gates of De La Salle, across the road and a few fields away. When I got to this old farmhouse [REDACTED] took me upstairs to the attic and [REDACTED] was there with his

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courage to explain to BR 13 what I had to endure prior to his timely interruption. This I kept to myself for many years thereafter. It still lives with me every day of my-life.

29. It was an unwritten rule that boys would interfere with each other, it was a common theme. This was primary because we were all going through adolescence and we didn't have a clue as our bodies were changing. If what we were doing, was right or wrong was ever more confusing and it happened to me. I could accept it to a certain extent because we thought it was harmless and it was part of growing up but also felt embarrassed. The boys who came from Nazareth, this unwritten practice meant we were more exposed than the boys who came to Rubane through the Justice or the Welfare Systems.
30. DL 134, DL 135 sleeping quarters were on the same level and adjacent to the boys sleeping quarters. There was however a divided door and on occasions you would hear the dividing door opening in the early hours of morning around 2am or 3am or maybe later. The dormitory where I and three others stayed which incidentally was the first room beside the dividing door, that on one occasion DL 134 came into my room. I was aged about eleven or twelve, I knew he was coming for me, I just knew because of his shadow. He took my bed clothes off and I said to him 'if you f.....g touched me I'll kill you. You come at me I', 'am coming for you'. He realised that I had become strong, not in the physical sense but strong in mind. Under any circumstances was I letting him violate my person. As a result of this I became more aggressive as I learned from my time in the homes that if I didn't stand up for myself, no one would. He left and I think he went to another room.
31. DL 134 never came near me from that day until one Saturday evening. Not sure the year but I suspect late 1969. Saturday nights, the boys went to have a bath or a shower in the evening. In chalet this process was supervised by DL 134. He would get all the boys line-up in the corridor with only a bath towel covering from the waist down. It was my turn to go in and I said to DL 134 I wanted a shower. The process was one person per-time, so if somebody wanted a bath or shower they were on their own with the exception of DL 134 who stayed



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32. BR 13 was a man who was in his [REDACTED] he was a lovely man. I did confide in him. I told him something had to be done about DL 134, DL 135 and DL 134 [REDACTED] is going to ruin all of us. DL 134, DL 135 isolated us boys which only cause a divide within the entire home. I felt we were treated very differently from the other boys within Rubane and that had a negative impact. DL 134, DL 135 were divisive a law unto themselves. The boys within chalet [REDACTED] would not discuss what was happening to them individually in fear of retribution. From talking to fellow boys in later years I found-out DL 134 had sexually assaulted some of them. Br BR 13 didn't give any indication of his thoughts but I suspected he was wary of our allegations.
33. On speaking to BR 3 and I told him that I needed to get out of chalet [REDACTED] He asked me why and I told him I couldn't take anymore and was going to kill myself, I felt that bad. It was as a result of other information unknown to the boys, which DL 134, DL 135 were asked to leave by then the superior BR 6 [REDACTED] The huge relief cannot be over-estimated among the boys of chalet [REDACTED]
34. The De La Salle Order somehow restored a much happier environment. I was transferred back to the main house some several months after the new house parents had arrived DL 314, DL 421 [REDACTED] While I did get on well with them, it was better all round to go back to the main house.
35. Back at the main house I felt much more at ease the burden had long last been lifted. Upon my return I was given a single room which reaffirmed my confidence and the faith showing in me. My room was adjacent to two other single rooms which contain two De La Salle brothers, BR 12 [REDACTED] and BR 3 [REDACTED]. The remainder of my time in Rubane no brother ever entered my [REDACTED]



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sexual and physical abuse by [DL 134, DL 135]. I also suffered sexual abuse by other boys but I suspect this was more the norm but nonetheless an aspect that I could not comprehend but only felt the need to suppress it.

26. [DL 134] was original from [REDACTED] and [DL 135] original from [REDACTED]. Both of them were very imposing people. One Saturday evening after 6pm tea-time [DL 134] brought me into his private quarters attached to chalet [REDACTED] when I was eleven or twelve. Natural I was very wary and I thought he was creepy and unsure of his purpose. There was something about him, and when I came in to his private quarters he push, me against the wall. My mind was all over the place and I push him away. I wasn't sure what he was doing or going on because I hadn't a clue. The fact that we never received any sex education both in Nazareth and Rubane only further caused confusion. I couldn't make sense of what he was doing or trying to do, but I knew it wasn't right. It was not my place to raised such a taboo subject in fear of embarrassment or not been believe and respect for the clergy. But also fearful of how [DL 134] would react if I did report this inappropriate behaviour.
27. [DL 134] got me to sit down on a seat opposite to him. He then asked me 'do you know what your penis is for?' Feeling nervous and vulnerable I told him I never heard the word penis in my life and I told him I don't know what you are talking about. He further added do you know what comes out of it, 'I haven't a clue what are you talking about.' It was most embarrassing as well as feeling very awkward. I was never so uncomfortable with my heart racing ever so fast. I was totally nervous and at my wits end.
28. Totally uncomfortable I got up from my seat and told [DL 134] was nervous and very uncomfortable. I sensed he was going to do something sexual to me. I had never been in his private quarters on my own before but I couldn't wait for him to tell me I could go. He told me to stay where I was and he pulled me down on my seat. It was scary I felt for sure I was going to be used in a sexual or physical way, so I ran to the door and just at that very moment [BR 13] came to the door. On seeing [BR 13] it was a huge relief, [BR 13] asked [DL 134] if everything was alright. [DL 134] response was that he was just talking to me. I didn't have the

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courage to explain to **BR 13** what I had to endure prior to his timely interruption. This I kept to myself for many years thereafter. It still lives with me every day of my-life.

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th March, at 3 p.m.

Rev. Fr. McCann, Chairman,  
Rev. Fr. Donnelly,  
Mrs. Keating,

BR 26

BR 6

tes of the last meeting were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

S REPORT:

f boys in the Home: In his report the Manager pointed out that  
er of boys present on the day of the meeting - 26 - compared very  
ably to the corresponding number twelve months ago which was 38.  
also pointed out that less than a quarter of the boys have been  
by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board. Due to the  
g number of boys the Department of Education had given notification  
quota of teachers for the academic year 1985/1986 was to be reduced

ts Procedure: told the Committee that the interim  
ts procedure had been explained to all the boys and staff. In  
facilitate the boys' access to the voluntary visitor, it had been  
that Mrs. Keating should visit the home on the first Tuesday of  
th. The Parish Priest and Curate had also agreed to cooperate in  
on any complaints which the boys might convey to them.  
icated that he would be attending a seminar on monitoring for  
y Child Care Organizations in Comber.

WITH DEPARTMENT:

g with the Department of Health and Social Services relevant to  
ress of investigations against a Member of Staff was held in  
d House on 27th February, 1985. This meeting was attended by the  
, Fr. McCann, BR 26 and Representatives of the  
ork Advisory Group also attended.

McCann expressed satisfaction as regards how the Meeting had



, Martin indicated that he had received a verbal undertaking  
proceedings would be recommended by the D.P.P. Office. He  
ing written confirmation of this from the Newtownards R.U.C.

MRS. KEATING:

ing told the Committee that she had visited the Home on Tuesday  
Thursday 28th February.

cond visit Dr. Martin brought her to Chalet 3 where she was  
l to three Members of the Care Staff and then to **BR 9** the  
ne unit. Mrs. Keating had a very pleasant and relaxing talk  
oup of ten boys. She told them that either on this or on any  
; visit, they should feel free to approach her on anything that  
preying on their minds, any complaints, requests or suggestions  
would like to make.

ng came away with the impression of having met a really happy  
ion of young boys in their early teens and could have nothing  
tulations for all the Members of Staff who merge them so  
gether.

ng's full report is enclosed.

Robbison Chairman. 29 April '85 Date.

Brother was transferred to another community. [REDACTED] had a high profile at the time because of his success with the school band and the Provincial was criticised for transferring the Brother by parents and teachers who did not know the circumstances. I doubt if any of the Brothers except the Director of the Community, were told of the incident. I cannot say if the Director of the new community was told.

#### E. Order's Policy on Child Abuse

31. The term "Policy" was not mentioned in those days. As far as the Brothers were concerned, the Rule was their "Policy". The Rule does not single out Child Abuse but addresses the Brother's commitment to observing the Vow of Chastity which addressed all aspects of a Brother's affective and sexual behaviour in relation to children, women and each other. If all Brothers observed the prescriptions of in relation to the Vow of Chastity, we would have no case of Child Sexual Abuse.
32. The Rule was originally drawn up by the Founder, John Baptist De La Salle. The earliest copy we have in the archives here dates to 1897 and is entirely in French. A 1905 edition gives both a French and English translation. From its initial inception the Rule has been revised by a General Chapter of Brothers to meet the needs of the times and the varying circumstances in the different countries in which the Brothers were teaching.
33. The following extracts from the Brothers Common Rule and the Rule of Government 1947 will give an indication of the Order's policy especially in relation to children;
  - i. *The Brothers should be convinced that no one will be tolerated in the Institute in whom anything exterior against chastity has appeared or appears. Rule Page 101 (1)*
  - ii. *To preserve this virtue (Chastity) with all the care it requires, they shall show great reserve and decency in all things. Rule Page 101 (3)*
  - iii. *The Brothers shall be careful never to see or allow themselves to be seen in a manner even the least immodest. Rule Page 103 (4)*
  - iv. *They shall never touch one another in play or through any kind of familiarity, this being very unbecoming, and contrary to the respect which they owe to one another, as well as against decency and modesty. Rule Page 103 (6)*
  - v. *They shall not touch their pupils through playfulness or familiarity, and they shall never touch them on the face. Rule Page 103 (7)*
  - vi. *In all their exterior actions, the Brothers should manifest great modesty....  
Rule Page 113 (1)*
  - vii. *They shall not receive Brothers, students or outsiders in their rooms  
Rule Page 13 (3\*)*

30. The Brother Director shall be careful that the parlor doors have glazed panels without curtains, in such a manner that the interior may be easily seen. It should be the same for the greater number of rooms, and especially the Procure, the Linen-Room, and the Infirmary, and Sacristy.

If there are two or more contiguous parlors in a house, the partitions and doors of separation should likewise be glazed and without curtains.

The door keeper's office and the parlor shall, as much as possible, be so placed that he may be able to see into the parlor.

31. In virtue of the powers conferred on him by his Obedience, the Brother Director shall keep in good repair all the furniture of his house; he may even make little additions to it with regard to ordinary objects of low price, and make repairs, called tenant's repairs, doing all with prudence and under the sanction of the Brother Visitor.

32. The requests for extraordinary purchases, sales, loans, and erection or repairing of buildings, journeys, and in general for all permissions of any importance, are to be transmitted to the Regime through the Brother Visitor, who shall add his views and all useful information on the subject, such as the following :

1° A statement of the motives, written in our official language, if possible;

2° Minutes of the Council of the Community and that of the District;

3° When the Institute is not the owner of the property, indication of the clauses of the contract which give the Institute the temporary enjoyment of the property;

*filed*<sup>2</sup>, which would indicate that it was not customary to do so. The 1958 and 1964 'Investigation Papers' are attached hereto as **Exhibits 1 and 2** respectively.

19. One explanation for destroying such files would be the guarantee that anything told to the Provincial in the "Personal Interview" would be not be divulged without the Brother's permission.
20. If the Order thought that there would further Inquiries or investigations into matters of this kind, it would have ensured that all records were kept securely in order to defend itself properly.
21. Individual Files on the Brothers were not kept except for the basic details such as Date of Birth, Date of Vows and assignments.
22. Occasionally, Brothers might speculate as to why Brothers were transferred unexpectedly from one community to another especially during the school year, but abuse of children never entered our minds. There were many other reasons why a Brother would be transferred:- A Brother might request a transfer because of relationship problems with the Director or other Brothers, abuse of alcohol, smoking without permission, over familiarity with a member of the opposite sex, or excessive corporal punishment in school. Brothers had a duty not to rash judge others;  
  
*'They shall not speak of any of the Brothers, or those who have been in the Society, or any other person unless it be to speak well of them' Rule Page 29(5)*
23. From my experience, any incident of this nature would be dealt with by the Provincial and only those with a need to know would be informed and then only with the details absolutely necessary.
24. At the relevant time the dilemma of sex abuse and how to deal with it effectively was not understood by society, the Church, or the Religious Congregations. It was regarded as a moral fault which could be corrected by guidance and repentance. The offender was confronted and the error of his ways pointed out to him. If he was contrite, he was advised to go to confession and make a new start in a new community.
25. The terms "sex abuse" or even "indecent assault" were not used. In the documents relating to cases in the 50's, the Provincial spoke of a Brother "behaving immorally with some boys" or in another case, a Brother "admitted to one incident of immoral behaviour" with a boy.
26. There is no evidence that, at that time, the Brothers or society in general understood the harm and damage that child abuse caused and there was little understanding of the nature of a sexual predator or paedophile and how he could be effectively prevented from engaging in such behaviour.
27. A search of our own Archives indicates that the first incident of child abuse in Northern Ireland, which came to the attention of the Provincial of the Irish Province was in relation to Rubane in 1958, when an allegation was made against the Superior



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- 5.4. It is submitted by the HSCB that HIA 183 was a privately placed child and had no visiting social worker. It is clear from his evidence that he was totally dependent on staff in the Home and he had no social or familial contacts outside the Home. This left HIA 183 extraordinarily isolated and vulnerable.
- 5.5. In the HSCB's submission, it is also important to note that the 1980 disclosures were made to social workers. In his evidence, Mr. Bunting said of this, "*...it meant [the boys] felt able to confide and I think that was something new ...because it was a very difficult thing for children in residential care to – and particularly when we are talking about the church and religious orders for them to complain...*"<sup>59</sup>
- 5.6. In relation to those Applicants who were placed in Rubane by welfare authorities in the 1950s, apart from the recollection of the Applicants, there is little other evidence available regarding social work visiting to children placed in Rubane, although the file of HIA 45, who was in Rubane between January 1951 and January 1953 provides some insight into this.
- 5.7. In 1967, Belfast Welfare Authority introduced a policy whereby Social Welfare Officers had to keep in regular contact with children following admission to residential care by visiting the child at least monthly. This was not required by legislation but was considered to be good childcare practice. A three monthly review form was introduced which recorded dates of visits by the Social Welfare Officer to the child<sup>60</sup>. The Eastern Health and Social Services Board developed this policy without the compulsion of any statutory provision or

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<sup>59</sup> See Transcript Day 76, page 140, lines 21-25 and page 141, lines 1-11

<sup>60</sup> See RUB 41550 F-G

Departmental guidance. In his evidence to the Hughes Inquiry, Mr. Bunting said of the 1967 policy:

*"I think this was a substantial initiative at the time given the resources that we had and it was carried through reasonably successfully. I think there were problems at times because of shortages of fieldwork staff on occasions and also problems too in relation or clarification of roles between the residential staff and the fieldwork staff..."<sup>61</sup>*

- 5.8. The HSCB submits that in the 1970s, regular social work visiting became an established part of social work practice. Examples of this are found in the case review documentation for a number of Applicants including HIA 41, HIA 31 and HIA 25.<sup>62</sup>
- 5.9. The evolution of social work visits to children in residential care is demonstrated by following examples:
  - 5.9.1. HIA 45 was in Rubane between January 1951 and January 1953. HIA recalls seeing his social worker in Rubane but says she did not speak to him. HIA 45's social work records do not contain any notes of any visits from his welfare officer during his time in Rubane House.<sup>63</sup>
  - 5.9.2. HIA 59 was in Rubane between August 1958 – April 1960 and he recalls a welfare officer checking on him occasionally but she did not speak to him directly. HIA 59's social services file has not been found so it is not possible to see whether or not, or to what extent, he was visited by a social worker in Rubane.
  - 5.9.3. HIA 252 was in Rubane between November 1954 and March 1962. On Day 55, HIA 252 explained that **DL 411** welfare officer, transported him to Rubane on 5 or 6 occasions and he had met him and

<sup>61</sup> RUB 41555 A-C

<sup>62</sup> For summary see RUB 8211, paragraphs 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

<sup>63</sup> See RUB 8001, paragraph 6



- 5.9.9. HIA 94 was placed in Rubane between October 1972 and March 1973 but there are no records of [REDACTED] Welfare Authority visiting him during this time.
- 5.9.10. HIA 222 was placed in Rubane between October 1974 and December 1974 and his social worker visited him four times during this two-month period.
- 5.9.11. HIA 259 was placed in Rubane between September 1974 and May 1979 and there is evidence of social work visiting between 1974 and 1978.<sup>67</sup>
- 5.9.12. HIA 170 was in Rubane between 1979 and 1984. On Day 68, HIA 170 acknowledged that social workers visited him regularly in Rubane in that that they came almost every month albeit in the following terms, *"They loved the drive down, yes, the social workers. It was a day out for them, so it was. I never benefited from it. I don't know any of the boys that did, but we got out of school<sup>68</sup>."*
- 5.10. From the evidence currently available, it appears to the HSCB that insufficient emphasis was placed on regular and frequent social work visits to children in Rubane in the 1950s and 1960s but that this changed in the 1970s, when practice in this area improved, as did the system for recording social work visits. The HSCB accepts that the apparent infrequency of visits in the earlier years and/or the lack of record keeping about visits made amounts to significant weaknesses in social work practice at the time.

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<sup>67</sup> See RUB 8594-8598

<sup>68</sup> See Transcript for Day 60 page 48, lines 18-25



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- 5.9. The evolution of social work visits to children in residential care is demonstrated by following examples:
  - 5.9.1. HIA 45 was in Rubane between January 1951 and January 1953. HIA recalls seeing his social worker in Rubane but says she did not speak to him. HIA 45's social work records do not contain any notes of any visits from his welfare officer during his time in Rubane House.<sup>63</sup>
  - 5.9.2. HIA 59 was in Rubane between August 1958 – April 1960 and he recalls a welfare officer checking on him occasionally but she did not speak to him directly. HIA 59's social services file has not been found so it is not possible to see whether or not, or to what extent, he was visited by a social worker in Rubane.
  - 5.9.3. HIA 252 was in Rubane between November 1954 and March 1962. On Day 55, HIA 252 explained that **DL 411** welfare officer, transported him to Rubane on 5 or 6 occasions and he had met him and

<sup>61</sup> RUB 41555 A-C

<sup>62</sup> For summary see RUB 8211, paragraphs 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

<sup>63</sup> See RUB 8001, paragraph 6

his colleague [REDACTED] on a few occasions but *'I never mind them coming to the Home<sup>64</sup>.'* HIA 252's social services file has not been found so it is not possible to see whether or not, or to what extent, he was visited by a social worker in Rubane.

**5.9.4. HIA 244** was placed in Rubane between 1961 and 1965 and, in his witness statement, he states that no one from social services visited him<sup>65</sup>. He recalls a social worker from [REDACTED] Welfare at court but he never saw her again in Rubane. HIA 244's social services file has not been found so it is not possible to see whether or not, or to what extent, he was visited by a social worker in Rubane.

**5.9.5. HIA 191** was in Rubane between August 1965 and March 1970. Whilst there is a record of a social worker visiting in October 1965, there are no further records of social work visits to HIA 191 in Rubane between October 1965 and his discharge in March 1970.

**5.9.6. HIA 225** was in Rubane between 1968 and 1972 and, throughout this period, Belfast Welfare Authority documented regular social work visits.<sup>66</sup>

**5.9.7. HIA 34** was placed in Rubane between February 1974 and May 1974. No social services records have been found in respect to HIA 34 but the De la Salle Order records show that his social worker visited HIA 34 on 24 February 1974 and 8 March 1974, as well as making a number of telephone calls to him in February 1974.

**5.9.8. HIA 104** was in Rubane between September 1974 and June 1979. Although no social services records have been found in respect to HIA 104, the De la Salle Order records show that HIA 104's social worker visited him on 12 March 1975, 30 April 1975, monthly between May 1977 and December 1977 and monthly between July 1978 and December 1978.

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<sup>64</sup> See transcript page 172, lines 10-25; page 189, lines 9-16; and page 191, lines 2-5

<sup>65</sup> See RUB 655

<sup>66</sup> See RUB 8506-8520

- 5.9.9. HIA 94 was placed in Rubane between October 1972 and March 1973 but there are no records of [REDACTED] Welfare Authority visiting him during this time.
- 5.9.10. HIA 222 was placed in Rubane between October 1974 and December 1974 and his social worker visited him four times during this two-month period.
- 5.9.11. HIA 259 was placed in Rubane between September 1974 and May 1979 and there is evidence of social work visiting between 1974 and 1978.<sup>67</sup>
- 5.9.12. HIA 170 was in Rubane between 1979 and 1984. On Day 68, HIA 170 acknowledged that social workers visited him regularly in Rubane in that that they came almost every month albeit in the following terms, *"They loved the drive down, yes, the social workers. It was a day out for them, so it was. I never benefited from it. I don't know any of the boys that did, but we got out of school<sup>68</sup>."*
- 5.10. From the evidence currently available, it appears to the HSCB that insufficient emphasis was placed on regular and frequent social work visits to children in Rubane in the 1950s and 1960s but that this changed in the 1970s, when practice in this area improved, as did the system for recording social work visits. The HSCB accepts that the apparent infrequency of visits in the earlier years and/or the lack of record keeping about visits made amounts to significant weaknesses in social work practice at the time.

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<sup>67</sup> See RUB 8594-8598

<sup>68</sup> See Transcript for Day 60 page 48, lines 18-25



From the outset of the Home at Rubane the De La Salle Order and the various Public Authorities had continual interaction.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education were present at the official opening on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1950 and the History of the House notes regular attendances and inspections throughout the years. These would appear to include both scheduled and unscheduled visits. The Hughes Inquiry Chapter 10 detailed inspections by the Social Work Advisory Group (SWAG) in September 1973, August 1974, October/December 1975 and July 1976. It also details a visit in February 1975 by a Mr Robert Mills, then assistant secretary with Child Care responsibilities in the DHSS. The Hughes Inquiry noted that there was no official inspection by SWAG or the Department between 1976 and March 1981.

Similar relationships existed with each of the old independent Welfare Authorities and they too inspected the home from time to time.

The Order had a good relationship with the RUC. There were regular incidents relating to absconders and petty crime and the Order was often called upon to give references for residents involved in criminal prosecutions.

At all times the Home was subject to inspection by a broad range of public authorities and the Order co-operated fully with each and every inspection.

The Order accepts that as the development of residential care improved through the 1970s/1980s the involvement of the public authorities in the lives of the residents for whom they had statutory responsibility increased. Notification of child care training provision increased. The welfare authorities finally accepted maintenance for all children in or around 1972 and the attendance of social workers at the Home increased. Inspections, culminating in the SWAG report of 1979 became more detailed and feedback more formalised.

Post 1975 all boys had a social worker. Before 1972 perhaps only 50% (approx.) of the boys had a social worker and so some boys had no government social care support at all. The amount of visits by a social worker to see the boy(s) for whom they had responsibility depended on the identity of the social worker and the welfare authority. Some were more frequent visitors than others. Some Social Workers preferred to visit the boys when they went home for the weekend. Social Workers were encouraged to visit the home and facilitated with meeting rooms for private discussions. In 1975-76 there were 56 social workers who had a boy in the home. In 1979-80 there were 82 social workers.

Interaction with public medical facilities was never particularly good. While Divisional Medical officers attended at the home to undertake examinations of the boys concern about ESN and psychiatric issues was never properly addressed resultant in the Order relying heavily on the voluntarily attendance of a retired psychiatrist.

Post Kincora and the 1980 Rubane investigation the involvement of social workers in residents care reviews and the partnership with the public authorities improved considerably. There is evidence that the voluntary and state sector began to share 'best practice' models in respect of staff recruitment, contracts and duty rotas for staff. An example by way of letter from DHSS to De La Salle dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 1981 is exhibited as Exhibit 18.

Explanatory Notes: -

I, Br Pius McCarthy am the Provincial Secretary to the De La Salle Order in Ireland



their care continued to get the best opportunities that circumstances dictated. To this end the Order co-operated with the Diocese of Down and Connor and the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Society to provide resources for former residents. The NLWS and the Order had built up relationships with a number of potential employers and provided assistance in getting residents jobs. Accommodation arrangements were made with sympathetic families and in the 1970s a 'half-way' house and youth club (St Augustine's) set up principally to support ex residents. Primarily it was to provide assistance to ex Nazareth/Rubane boys because they generally had no family support network but no one was excluded and even children supported by Welfare availed of the opportunities. The 1973 Minutes of the Governing Board AGM note the concerns raised about the death of 'old boys' in the Troubles and the need to create a social centre for them.

██████ took over from ██████ in the late 1960s and appears to have been somewhat of a pioneer on Child Care qualifications, gaining a university 'Recognition in Child Care' at a time when qualifications, even within the government departments were extremely rare. There is extensive documentation dealing with the work which he undertook.

The implementation of the cottage/chalet system in 1968 developed the care provisions and arose from a review of facilities with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Diocese. It was based on a system which was gaining popularity among social care workers in England. It was principally designed to try and provide a more family based care provision and was a move away from 'institutional' facilities. It heralded the introduction of lay and female child care staff to Rubane.

It should be noted that some boys were discharged to their parents.

Visits by parents, siblings and extended family members were permitted.

It should also be noted that boys under the care of a welfare authority were only discharged in consultation with social services.

Care review meetings were held with social workers though the records suggest that this practice improved dramatically post 1980.

In 1980 the Order working in conjunction with the Diocese appointed an internal social worker to improve the interaction between the Home, the Diocese and the Welfare Authorities in regards the continual assessment of residents and preparation for discharge.

In later years, a programme for independent living was introduced in the Home to prepare the older boys who were leaving for employment. The administrators of the Home recognized that the transition from institutional care to living in community could be traumatic for boys who had no home to go to. When the occasion arose a programme for independent living was set up to provide these boys with an opportunity to live on their own under supervision. The programme usually lasted a month and included budgeting cooking, laundry, time planning etc. Details of the Programme, Phase 1 & Phase 2 together with sample resident's contract are exhibited hereto as Exhibit 13.

The Order often facilitated the weekend return of 'old boys' – ex-residents who would return to catch up with staff or friends at the weekend and the Order recognising that Rubane was for many their only 'home' accommodated and largely welcomed these visits.

The 'Aims Objectives and Programmes' document dated January 1981 and exhibited hereto as Exhibit 14 details the care and review programmes. While it is dated January 1981 some of the principles detailed therein would have operated earlier.

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36. I shared a room with another boy. He moved and I had the room to myself. When I had the room to myself a boy called [DL 95] would come into my room and try to have sex with me. I tried to fight him off but he held me down. I just went rigid so he could not do what he wanted to do so he gave up and left. He tried to do this about four times but he was not able to any of the times as I went rigid and wouldn't let him have sex with me. He had a relationship with another boy whose first name I cannot remember. He was [DL 412]'s younger brother. One day this boy [DL 412] and [DL 95] pulled me down the stairs at the snooker room. I fell and really hurt my coccyx. I got up and went to thump him. [DL 95] joined in and he gave me a good hammering, he split my lip, made my nose bleed and gave me a black eye. [DL 95] was the toughest boy in Rubane. Nobody intervened. I realised afterwards that [BR 2] was watching. He summoned us to his office. He asked me what had happened. I said "nothing happened" out of fear of what [DL 95] would do if I told. I realised [BR 2] had been watching and I said to him "if you saw what happened why did you let it happen?". He caned the both of us. Afterwards people who would have given me a hard time stopped giving me a hard time. I think it was because I did not tell.
37. There was another boy called [DL 94] who came into my room twice and tried to have sex with me. I did the same thing as I had done with [DL 95] [DL 95] I went rigid, so he was not able to have sex with me.
38. I woke up one night and [HIA 21] was in my room and he had his hand under the covers trying to masturbate me. I told him to get out or I would tell [BR 2]. He never bothered me again.
39. During my time in Rubane I was also sexually assaulted by a man called [DL 141] [DL 141] [DL 141] was a past resident and he used to visit Rubane after he left. I knew his brother who was two or three years older than me. They were both in Nazareth Lodge and Rubane. When I was fifteen he became very friendly and I do not know who he asked but I was allowed to go to his house for



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courage to explain to **BR 13** what I had to endure prior to his timely interruption. This I kept to myself for many years thereafter. It still lives with me every day of my-life.

29. It was an unwritten rule that boys would interfere with each other, it was a common theme. This was primary because we were all going through adolescence and we didn't have a clue as our bodies were changing. If want we were doing, was right or wrong was ever more confusing and it happened to me. I could accept it to a certain extent because we thought it was harmless and it was part of growing up but also felt embarrass. The boys who came from Nazareth, this unwritten practice meant we were more exposed than the boys who came to Rubane through the Justice or the Welfare Systems.

30. **DL 134, DL 135** sleeping quarters were on the same level and adjacent to the boys sleeping quarters. There was however a divided door and on occasions you would hear the dividing door opening in the early hours of morning around 2am or 3am or maybe later. The dormitory were I and three others stay which incidentally was the first room beside the dividing door, that on one occasion **DL 134** came into my room. I was aged about eleven or twelve, I knew he was coming for me, I just knew because of his shallow. He took my bed clothes off and I said to him 'if you f.....g touched me I'll kill you. You come at me I', 'am coming for you'. He realised that I had become strong, not in the physical sense but strong in mind. Under any circumstances was I letting him violet my person. As a result of this I became more aggressive as I learned from my time in the homes that if I didn't stand up for myself, no one would. He left and I think he went to another room.

31. **DL 134** never came near me from that day until one Saturday evening. Not sure the year but I suspect late 1969. Saturday nights, the boys went to have a bath or a shower in the evening. In chalet **DL 134** this process was supervises by **DL 134**. He would get all the boys line-up in the corridor with only a bath towel covering from the waist down. It was my turn to go in and I said to **DL 134** I wanted a shower. The process was one person per-time, so if somebody wanted a bath or shower they were on their own with the exception of **DL 134** who stayed

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room or acted inappropriately. I received a knock on my door each morning prior to breakfast time and that was my morning call. I was attached to the brother's kitchen; I was highly respected by each and everyone of them. I had no miss-givens or concerns for my welfare.

36. Some years later I had asked the De La Salle order why were **DL 134, DL 135** removed and the only answer I was given that they were unsuitable. It is my opinion **DL 134** was sexually active and the brothers didn't want the real reason behind the enforced removal, known. I do struggle to accept this version of events but it maybe possible they didn't know what was happening in chalet one. It's fair to say **DL 135** was a highly strung person or even hard to work with. Equilibrium within this chalet was living on a knife edge and that impacted how we interacted with the creeds. "Rest assure it was all but a family unit".
37. When I was about thirteen years old I was buggered by two other boys. This took place in a derelict house outside the boundaries of Rubane Home. The two older boys I suspect were about fourteen or coming fifteen at the time. **HIA 147** was one of the culprits, I think the other maybe deceased who held me down while **HIA 147** buggered me. I lived with this each and every day. I now believe **HIA 147** his now registered on the paedophile list. **HIA 147** was also attached to Nazareth Lodge. I hadn't seen **HIA 147** for a number of years and I think it was in 2011 were I attended one of the HIA Forum Information Meetings which was held at the Wellington Park. I was able to get **HIA 147** removed and seeing him again brought back flash-backs. I was buggered by **HIA 147** for two years until he left Rubane.
38. Rubane had toxic mixture of boys who were placed by either the Justice Department or the Welfare System which further exposed children who came directly from Nazareth Lodge. The mixture of boys streetwise and orphans was so fundamentally wrong. There was no distinction made which only further cause a toxic environment and the impact thereafter, was very telling.
39. Of those who came from Nazareth they were hugely at a disadvantage and subsequently we suffered because we became influence by boys who were more streetwise, than we could ever be.



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natural thing to do but I then realised that he was getting aroused. This happened in [DL 134] bedroom and we only had these discussions on a couple of occasions. He was eventually dismissed. I do not know the reason for his dismissal. [DL 134] is now deceased.

31. I have also been told that similar things happened with a few other boys and Mr [DL 134] I felt embarrassed at the time and kept it to myself for a long time. I didn't even tell [DL 135] I always had this fear of getting in to trouble because he was [REDACTED] and would maybe beat me up. He was wicked at times, very disciplined and strict.
32. I liked [DL 135] I kept in touch a bit with her after I left the home but I joined the Unification Church and she told me on the phone not to visit her until I left that church. It was obvious that she did not agree with my involvement in this church but I was not going to leave for that reason so due to these religious differences I never went back to visit her.
33. I heard gossip whilst I was in the home about abuse of other residents by certain brothers. I heard a rumour that [BR 27] had sexual relations with a resident, [DL 95] I also heard that [HIA 147] a resident in the home, had messed about sexually with other boys. He tried to get over a toilet cubicle on one occasion to me and I might have reported the matter to [BR 6] I would have been about twelve at the time.
34. I went once from Rubane to stay with my grandparents for nine weeks. This was allowed because they used to take the boys with no relations on holiday to Glenarm for nine weeks and anyone who had relations were able to go to their relatives for nine weeks in the summer time. I went with my brothers, [HIA 152] and [HIA 64] My father started seeing [NHB 12] my sister when she went out with our grandparents so we started meeting up a bit then.
35. I was always with them, I was never playing with kids my own age, just going out shopping and different things so it was alright but it could have been better. I was told about the fun they had in Glenarm but I didn't have that fun. In 1969 they were putting people out of their homes during the troubles and my grandparents

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even feel it because of the blood poisoning. When I woke up the next day, the blood poisoning was gone.

23. Brother [BR 15] was a bad one. He had his chosen few who he would sexually abuse. When I first arrived in Rubane, my friend told me to watch out for night crawlers so I always slept on my left hand side with a shoe under my pillow. One night, I was woken from my sleep to find my bedclothes pulled back and a shadow leaning over me. I lifted the shoe and swung for the shadow and the person went away. The next day Brother [BR 15] had a black eye. He didn't come near me again after that.

24. There was a lot of sexual stuff going on amongst the boys in Rubane but I never got involved in it. On one occasion when I was about twelve and a half, I was sent to the laundry room to get something. When I opened the door I saw two boys doing sexual things but I just slammed the door and ran away. I don't know who the boys were. There was a lot of talk about certain boys playing about with other boys but I just kept out of it. When I first went into Rubane, older boys tried to come to my bed but I fought them off. Once they knew not to go near my bed, I was ok.

25. There was a lot of physical abuse in Rubane as well. I got plenty of beatings there, mostly from the older boys. The Brothers never really got involved unless you were being punished for something. I remember I ran away twice and each time I was punished in the same way. The first time I got as far as Newtownards but then I fell asleep in the bus station and the police picked me up. When they brought me back to Rubane, I was put into a tiny room, stripped and forced to put on swimming trunks.

26. One by one, the brothers came in and gave me a beating. There must have been four or five of them. I was about thirteen or fourteen at the time. The next morning in school, the Brother in charge pushed all the desks back to the wall except for one in the middle of the room. He then picked four of my mates to hold me down spread-eagled over the desk and tore into me with a bamboo cane. He beat me from my shoulders to my ankles. I can't remember which

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of the bin or sneak in to their dining room to steal food. The Brothers caned us if they caught us. I was caught a few times. My grandparents used to bring us up food but it was a waste because it would have been thrown in the bin by the Brothers if the older boys didn't get it. We weren't allowed to keep anything that made you different from the other boys.

18. [REDACTED] lived on the [REDACTED] and they would get a bus out to Kircubbin to visit me every Sunday. It was a 2 mile walk from the bus stop in Kircubbin out to Rubane and I used to ask one of the Brothers if they would go and collect them but it would depend what mood they were in.

19. The abuse was the most sinister thing about Rubane and there was a lot of it going on by the older boys. Some of the older boys would approach you in the classroom and tell you to be at the toilets at a certain time. They would make you perform oral sex on them. If you didn't go they would find you and beat you up so it was just easier to go when you were told to. You learned to stay away from them. Now and again one of the Brothers would call you in and say if a certain boy touches you, you were to tell them, which you did. I told Brother **BR 3** about the abuse by the older boys but he did not do anything about it.

20. I was cleaning the stairs and one of the Brothers told me I had to go to Brother **BR 65** room to help him clean his robe as he had got paint on it. Brother **BR 65** brought me in and locked the door. The abuse did not happen straight away. He had apples and oranges and biscuits and he would sit and talk. Then one day he told me to lock the door and told me to take my clothes off and he started doing things to me. He would digitally penetrate me and put me on top of him and kiss me. I always felt like it was my fault because I never tried to stop it or put up a fight but I suppose I was too young to know what to do. It happened about twice a month for a couple of months. He was a teacher and I was always terrified when I was in his class that he was going to ask me to stay behind after class. One day I noticed I was bleeding from my back passage and



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8. I went to school in Rubane. One day I was being taught by a teacher whose name was **DL 384**. My brother and I were talking. He came up behind me and without warning hit me over the head with a really large book. It felt like the ceiling had fallen on top of me. I was nearly knocked unconscious, everything was spinning.
9. [REDACTED] whose name I think was [REDACTED] was very quick tempered and he would slap me across the face with his hand from behind, often for no reason.
10. **SR 57** hit me over the head with a wooden object which was like a set square or the corner of a picture frame. Somebody had left the gas on in the kitchen and she wrongly blamed me. **SR 57** had no sense of smell and I think someone maybe hoped that she would come into the kitchen and not smell the gas and it would knock her out.
11. I remember one evening **SR 57** found that someone had defecated on the back rim of the toilet bowl. She came in and said she would give someone five pence to remove it. The next evening the same thing happened. She was furious and made everyone in the Chalet line up, take their underwear off and turn it inside out so she could inspect it. One of the boys had stains on his underwear and was trailed off to the bathroom by the arm by **BR 62** to clean it.
12. I did not suffer any sexual abuse in Rubane. I think the reason is because I still had a mother alive who I could have told. She came to visit about twice when I was in Rubane. However, I know that kind of abuse went on. One day I was out for a walk and heard a commotion in the wood behind the chalet. I saw a boy being beaten by about five other boys with branches and sticks. One of the five abusers made the boy who was being abused perform oral sex on him and then he urinated in his mouth. I was so disgusted I walked away. It haunted me and I questioned myself about why I didn't step in to stop it. However, I knew if I tried to stop it I would probably end up getting the same. I cannot recall any of their names.



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of the bin or sneak in to their dining room to steal food. The Brothers caned us if they caught us. I was caught a few times. My grandparents used to bring us up food but it was a waste because it would have been thrown in the bin by the Brothers if the older boys didn't get it. We weren't allowed to keep anything that made you different from the other boys.

18. [REDACTED] lived on the [REDACTED] and they would get a bus out to Kircubbin to visit me every Sunday. It was a 2 mile walk from the bus stop in Kircubbin out to Rubane and I used to ask one of the Brothers if they would go and collect them but it would depend what mood they were in.
19. The abuse was the most sinister thing about Rubane and there was a lot of it going on by the older boys. Some of the older boys would approach you in the classroom and tell you to be at the toilets at a certain time. They would make you perform oral sex on them. If you didn't go they would find you and beat you up so it was just easier to go when you were told to. You learned to stay away from them. Now and again one of the Brothers would call you in and say if a certain boy touches you, you were to tell them, which you did. I told Brother **BR 3** about the abuse by the older boys but he did not do anything about it.
20. I was cleaning the stairs and one of the Brothers told me I had to go to Brother **BR 65** room to help him clean his robe as he had got paint on it. Brother **BR 65** brought me in and locked the door. The abuse did not happen straight away. He had apples and oranges and biscuits and he would sit and talk. Then one day he told me to lock the door and told me to take my clothes off and he started doing things to me. He would digitally penetrate me and put me on top of him and kiss me. I always felt like it was my fault because I never tried to stop it or put up a fight but I suppose I was too young to know what to do. It happened about twice a month for a couple of months. He was a teacher and I was always terrified when I was in his class that he was going to ask me to stay behind after class. One day I noticed I was bleeding from my back passage and

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because he was very vicious. Everyone was terrified of him. He never hit me but he shouted and I saw him hit others by punching and kicking them.

33. I was abused by **BR 30**. He was an [REDACTED] and he died on [REDACTED] from a [REDACTED] at the home. He got me in a lock with his hands and he did it a couple of times.

34. I was involved in communal masturbation with boys of all ages in Rubane. I didn't know any better. I thought it was a normal thing to do. It seemed that everyone was doing it and it became a regular thing. It happened all over the premises from the farm, in the fields, the woods and the dormitories. It was mutually acceptable behaviour and went on throughout my time in Rubane.

35. Two boys called **DL 301** and **DL 229** were both sent to Rubane from Scotland. **DL 301** was very sexually active and engaged in mutual sexual relations with other boys.

36. In Rubane there was a shop where we could spend our pocket money which we received from the Brothers every Sunday. We got twenty or twenty five pence a week for pocket money. The shop sold cigarettes and the Brothers sold them to us. All my money was spent on cigarettes. I would then sell the cigarettes to the other boys for five pence each. There was even a designated smoking area which was the cinema room in one of the outbuildings on the farm. You weren't allowed to smoke in the house, chalet's or school. Everyone smoked. The Brother's were selling cigarettes to children and that's why most of us smoke today. It wasn't right.

37. **BR 3** was the only Brother that ever gave me a bad beating. There was a boy called **DL 315** who had just turned thirteen. He was sent under a court order to Rubane. He asked me where he could go to smoke and I said he could go to the toilets upstairs. I showed him where to go and we were both in a cubicle smoking when the toilet door was kicked in by **BR 3**. Brother **BR 3** grabbed me by the hair and said 'he's only in the place and you're at him'. I asked him what he was talking about and he grabbed me by the hair and



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generally the brothers were all very brutal and they had their own ways of doing things. If they took a notion that you had done something wrong or crossed them in any way you would be severely punished.

27. There was a civilian teacher, **DL 6** who taught **DL 6** and **DL 6**. He was a nutcase and he used to throw mallets and chisels at the boys. He was a bit brutal also and if he hit you with one of these items you would really feel it. He hit me on a few occasions.

28. There was a boy in the home with mental health difficulties. I can no longer recall his name but he was brutalised by the Brothers. He suffered from schizophrenia and took a lot of tablets and the Brothers picked on him all the time. He would take fits and the Brothers did not know how to treat him properly and they would try to beat it out of him. If there was anything wrong with you at all in the home you were picked on especially by the Brothers, they were the worst culprits. It was as if they were trying to turn you into a real man, to toughen you up and make you a hard man. I was hit by almost every Brother in the home, they all had a swing at me at some point if you crossed them. They were just brutal in their way of doing things and you had to be tough to survive their regime.

29. There was a hierarchy amongst the boys in the home. The older boys were like kings around the place and they picked on the younger boys. The more you were down the ranks the more you got bullied. This was the pecking order in the home and there was a code between the boys, you never told on anyone or grassed them up you would have got the life kicked out of you.

30. For a long time I heard some of the boys calling other boys queer or gay and I didn't understand what they were talking about as I was too young but you soon caught on what they meant by calling them these names. Some boys undoubtedly were gay but there were others who threatened some boys with sexual favours. I was sexually abused by a boy called **DL 58**. He was vicious and brutal. He could set upon anyone at any stage. You would be sitting one minute in your room alone and the next thing he would turn up and

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that is when things just happened. He would often bully me in the canteen and take my pocket money. He lived in my chalet.

31. He brought me in to the toilets on one occasion when I was about eleven years old and he was about school leaving age and he had full anal sex with me and he wanted me to masturbate him. I feared him because he would hit you if you did not do as he said. On another occasion when I was very ill and just out of Newtownards hospital he came to my room after dinner time when I was lying in my bed. He got into my bed and he buggered me. On one other occasion he stopped me and told me he wanted oral sex. He pushed me down and put his penis in my mouth. I was nearly sick and got up and ran away. He shouted at me to come back but for some reason he never bothered me in a sexual way again. I was told by the police that he came to a very bad end. I never reported him because no-one would have believed me. The Brothers and the staff did not want to know. They knew it was going on but they closed their ears to it. If you reported it you would have got a clip on the ear or a more severe punishment. There was a culture of silence in the home in relation to sexual abuse.

32. BR 1 came to Rubane House one evening and the next day we were introduced to him and told he would be teaching [REDACTED]. He had worked previously in [REDACTED]. Some of the residents at Rubane House went home for the weekend and some of them had brothers or knew boys who had been resident at [REDACTED]. The rumours soon started to spread that BR 1 had been caught in [REDACTED] abusing a boy in the toilets. He was caught by another Brother, he was quickly moved to Rubane House and the matter was kept quiet.

33. BR 1 was left in charge of the [REDACTED] and there was always something strange about him. When we used the showers he would always be hanging around watching us, there was always something not quite right about him. It seemed strange the way he looked at you, all the boys felt very uncomfortable with it. When we were lined up in the evening he would put his arm around the boys and the way he looked at you was creepy. He was



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and I fell forward, pulled away and got out the door. No-one would have heard us, no-one could hear me or was coming to help me so he could do whatever he liked to me. This incident happened around tea time so all the boys were having their tea at this time and there was no-one around and **BR 1** would have been well aware of the fact that no-one could have heard or helped me.

35. I ran directly to the Chalet and went straight to the shower without stopping for my tea as I felt dirty and disgusted. I then had to avoid him like the plague after this incident and that was extremely difficult as it was hard to stay out of his way and he always gave me a terrible look and had a smirky smile on his face. Having to face him daily was terrifying and I never wanted to be on my own with him. He would give me a look and point his finger at me at times and I knew he was trying to intimidate me. I was so naive that I thought I was the only one who had this type of problem but eventually it all came out that he had taken advantage of his position and abused other boys.

36. A boy in the home told me and a few of the other boys one day that he was being sexually abused by **DL 59** another resident in the home. I cannot recall the young boys name but the other boys he told were **DL 43** **DL 43** **DL 40** and **DL 87**. We were the same age as **DL 59** at the time, about fourteen or fifteen, so we challenged **DL 59** **DL 59** about this. We found him in the laundry room and we could see that this young boy was bent over and **DL 59** was standing behind him, both had their trousers down and it was obvious that he was about to have anal sex with the young boy. We gave him a kicking and he ran out the door and was stopped by **BR 10**. We explained to **BR 10** what **DL 59** had been doing. When **BR 10** heard what had happened he punished all of us for trying to put a stop to this behaviour. **BR 10** made the comment "this is a boys home, what do you expect?". He never did anything to deal with the matter and he said nothing whatsoever to **DL 59** **DL 59**. Something was done about **DL 59** eventually but **BR 10** should have put a stop to it then and there. We were really shocked by his

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attitude to this incident. We were all punished and lost our privileges for a while following this incident but **DL 59** was not punished at all.

37. I think **BR 10** and **BR 77** had to leave the Order. I heard that there was a football match arranged between staff and residents and **BR 77** lost his temper, kicked one of the boys on the pitch and broke his arm and that is why he was asked to leave the Order. I think **BR 10** was asked to leave for different reasons and I heard a rumour that he was seeing a girl outside the Home but I am not entirely sure when or why he left the Order.

38. Whilst I was in care in Nazareth Lodge I spent certain periods of time with other families. I recall I was with a family in Belfast who did not keep me for very long but I cannot recall their name. Another family called [REDACTED] took me out for six weekends in a row but I never saw them again. Another family in the same street took me out next but lost interest in me after a short time and I never saw them again. A nun then came and told me I was being taken out by a family called **DL 403** for the summer and I was driven to [REDACTED] to stay with total strangers. You simply did not ask questions. If they saw a family with a nice car that looked as if they were doing well for themselves then they would give you away to them to look after for the summer. They lived on a farm and I was a city boy and did not want to stay on a farm. They just wanted to use me as slave labour on the farm. The father of the family died and I was then taken out by the daughter and her husband. They would take me out during all the main holidays to help on the farm. They owned a caravan site in [REDACTED] and they also gave me endless chores to do from one end of the day to the next. I was running around like a dirty tramp constantly working and they had jobs laid out for me every day but it was more a man's work and I was only a boy at the time. When I returned to the home they were only interested in hearing how well I had worked and not how well I had behaved or whether or not I had enjoyed my time with the family.

39. When I was due to leave care the **DL 403** said they would take me on to stay with them so I had no option other than to go to stay with them. I had a

1 back. So we told the young fella to go ahead and we  
2 would watch his back. Sure enough, when we went in,  
3 there was DL59. The young fella was bent over. There  
4 was DL59 in behind him. Now he was just starting at  
5 this stage. So we pulled him over. Next thing there  
6 was a bit of a rigmarole, a bit of pushing around and  
7 shouting. Next thing BR10 arrived on the scene at that  
8 time",

9 and I put it to HIA259:

10 "You say in your statement that you told BR10 what  
11 was happening --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and why you were doing what you were doing.  
14 Is that right?

15 **A. Yes, that's right.**

16 Q. And you said that he said something to the  
17 effect of, 'This is a boys' home. What do you expect?'

18 **A. That's right, yes."**

19 Now I put it to him that you had said that -- you  
20 denied that you were ever told about any abuse among the  
21 boys, and if you had known, you would have reported it  
22 to the houseparent, and you said you did have to  
23 separate boys from fighting in the home on occasions,  
24 and fighting would have been expected in a boys' home,  
25 and that if you made such a comment, that's what you

1 would have been referring to. I asked HIA259 if there  
2 was anything he wanted to say about that and he said:

3 "No. He knew rightly what we were talking about.  
4 He knew. That wouldn't have been the first incident.  
5 Other incidents happened before and especially with DL59  
6 as well, like, caught out doing weird things to himself  
7 and that, and it came up. It didn't come up like ...",  
8 and there is an inaudible word, "but they knew rightly  
9 what they were talking about. Do you know what I mean?"

10 He also then was asked about a rumour that he had  
11 heard about you and another Brother leaving the Order,  
12 but accepted from me that that wasn't accurate, that you  
13 remained in the Order.

14 Then in another section of his evidence I put to him  
15 what he had said in the police station about this  
16 incident at Hallowe'en, and there was an issue about the  
17 roll call, and he said:

18 "That is what I'm saying. That doesn't make sense.  
19 As I say, it was Hallowe'en night. We were actually at  
20 a bonfire that BR10 actually arranged ..."

21 Did you ever arrange a bonfire?

22 A. Never arranged, never arranged a bonfire, no, never.

23 Q. "... and some of the outside girls came up and the ones  
24 that were doing the Irish dancing with the boys that  
25 were staying in. They were having a bonfire that night,



1     **A.   Yes.**

2     Q.   -- although I don't recall seeing this incident being  
3           highlighted --

4     **A.   No, I don't either, no.**

5     Q.   -- what they did bring back, such as it was --

6     **A.   Was very worrying.**

7     Q.   -- what happened on foot of it?  Do you know were any  
8           steps taken to, "Well, how are we going to address this  
9           problem?"

10    **A.   I can't honestly recall at this stage.  There may well**  
11       **have been.  Certainly I know that all the district staff**  
12       **and the Boards and the home staff were well aware that**  
13       **this was being investigated at the home.**

14    Q.   You made the point to me you communicated with all of  
15           those.

16    **A.   Yes.  It went -- it went -- I immediately sent this**  
17       **material, all of the material in relation to the**  
18       **homosexual activities as well to the police, to the**  
19       **Management Committee, to the Department.  The Permanent**  
20       **Secretary of the DHSS was involved and went and**  
21       **discussed it with the home's officer in charge and the**  
22       **Management Committee I think as well and probably the**  
23       **Bishop was involved.  So all of the staff certainly at**  
24       **the home knew about this.**

25    Q.   The extent of this obviously then wasn't known to you.

Brother in which I was the alleged perpetrator. Even though the Lord Chief Justice concluded that the evidence was overwhelmingly against the plaintiff, the Court case had a devastating effect on me and has left an indelible mark on me. As a result of the allegations I had to relinquish all my roles within Boards of Governors and anything to do with school children. I am now much more isolated than I deserve to be. Indeed, at times I consider that I wasted my life. It has been very, very difficult. I really do trust that this Inquiry will finally put paid to the rumour and allegations about my role in Rubane. I intend to deal with the specific allegations in separate rebuttal statements as allegations are put to me.

121. During the course of my time as [REDACTED], I was never aware of any type of sexual abuse by any member of staff. If there had been, the boys had various ways of informing relevant people in their lives, parent, social worker, teacher, doctor, nurse, police, psychiatrist, chaplain. Indeed my diary reveals that boys would come to me with complaints;

- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1972 [REDACTED] about [REDACTED]
- 30<sup>th</sup> January 1973 [REDACTED] about [REDACTED]

It also reveals that boys would have informed social workers or their parents.

122. Indeed, we see now with some hindsight that complaints were made by [REDACTED] in 1958 – to a Brother, [REDACTED] in 1964 to Social Services and by [REDACTED] to his Mother in 1970 – See Br Pius McCarthy's Admission and Awareness Statements dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.

### Sexual activity among the boys

123. Incidents of sexual misconduct among the boys surfaced from time to time and were taken seriously. These arose from concerns raised by members of the care staff and the chaplain of the Home who had been appointed by the Bishop. In cases where there were serious grounds for belief in these reports, I referred them to our visiting psychiatrists, Dr. McCauley or Dr Barcroft. See letters exchanged with Dr Barcroft dated May regarding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attached as **Exhibit 5** In one instance, Dr McCauley referred

the boy for assessment in Muckamore Abbey. In cases which seemed less serious and due to adolescent activity, I spoke with the boys concerned and warned them that such activity was not acceptable. Precautions were taken by the staff to minimize any possible occasions of such conduct. I don't recall seeking assistance from the Ministry of Home Affairs but I do believe that I engaged with social workers on specific problem boys, e.g. [REDACTED]. The daily life pattern was organized so that the boys were under constant supervision. Down in the woods or down in the farmyard, away from the confines of the play areas, were considered to be places where boys were not allowed to go without special permission. At night time, a Brother was on night call to respond to any disturbance within the residential unit. Furthermore, a [REDACTED] DL 504 was employed as an external security person to check up and report on night disturbances. During the fifties, sixties and seventies there was practically no sex education given in schools and the Brothers were actively discouraged to teach that particular subject. I was never aware of any guidelines laid down by the Department or Social Services re: sex education and reporting of sexual misconduct. Sexual abuse seemed to be hidden and never once, in my sixteen years I was ever told by Social Workers or did I ever see in their files a report of sexual abuse though I am now aware, in respect of [REDACTED] that his file contains a very startling revelation about his background. I remember this boy giving me problems but I don't recall ever seeing that report at the time or of it being brought to my attention by a social worker. My diaries contain the names of various boys which I spoke to about such activities [REDACTED] DL 140 wanted to expel them from the home. I didn't believe that was in the boys best interests and I tried a policy of psychiatric referral, education and instruction in the hope that we could eradicate the problem. In hindsight, eradication would have required something akin to 24 hour supervision. The 1981 SWAG report criticized the home for being 'overly strict on supervision'.

124. I am aware now that [REDACTED] BR 39 had raised concerns about sexual activity among boys in respect of St Patrick's Training School in 1948 and 1963 and that these issues had been raised with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

125. My Dairies record the following entries relevant to sexual activity among the boys;

- 28<sup>th</sup> July 1969 – questioned [REDACTED] on activities in his room [REDACTED]
- 29<sup>th</sup> July 1969 – questioned [REDACTED]
- 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1970 – SR 57 over discussed drugs sex – problems among the boys.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1970 – After supper – DL 140 waits to speak to [Br BR 6] in parlour with [REDACTED] Has got a notebook with him with a list of names. BR 3 joins in. Discussion of sex problems among the boys. Suggestions.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1970 – [REDACTED] comes back. No longer in Chalet. Replaced by [REDACTED] down in the woods.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1970 – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] down in DL 140
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1970 – Discussion about DL 140 meeting.....Meeting inconclusive views aired. Incurable stand.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1970 – [REDACTED] returns to the fold – allegations of misdemeanours
- 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1970 – BR 6 & I discuss [REDACTED] case after supper
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1971 [REDACTED] down in the woods.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 1971 – [REDACTED] passes remarks about [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] Questioned [REDACTED] exposed himself and asked [REDACTED] to do it. Gave him a slap on the face. Quite frank.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May 1971 – [REDACTED] in my room admitting masturbating with [REDACTED] down in field and woods.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1973 – BR 2 calls over to SR 57 after supper & change [REDACTED] over to the house alleged interference with another boy.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 1974 – SR 57 suspicious of immoral relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].. [REDACTED] accuses [REDACTED] of being a dirty boy.

I understand that at least 4 of the boys named above are applicants to this Inquiry.

126. In an effort to prevent sexual misconduct in the chalets boys were moved to the main house were they could be more closely supervised. This happened to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] There may have been others.



**DL 137** interfering with resident and reported the matter to a Brother. It is accepted that the Order or the Board of Management should have reported the matter to the RUC.

**(ii) Abuse by Co-Residents**

44. It is with considerable regret that it is now apparent that peer abuse was a much more widespread problem than was recognised at the time.

45. There are some early references to this type of activity, namely;

- **BR 19** 'summing up' the 1958 investigation wherein he records;
  - o **██████████** *has perhaps given too much guidance re sex to the boys. His explanation was that the boys were given to bad habits in Nazareth ..and some others who come in from Welfare Authorities. Found that two years ago there was much wrong doing among the boys'*
- In 1963 during the debate over the expansion of Rubane and in particular whether it would be expanded with dormitory buildings or chalet style cottage there are a number of potential references to such activity;
  - o At a meeting at Chichester House between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Trustees of St Patrick's Training School on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1963 the Trustees commented that the provision of chalet units with small rooms presented *'a real danger in that boys who have been deprived of normal home life will have opportunity for undesirable practices'*. See **Exhibit 7** attached hereto.
  - o Br **BR 39** conceded that the 'problem' was acute at the Old Milltown Training School but that it had been eradicated at St Patrick's Training School by the provision of large dormitories 'designed deliberately to remove privacy under which bad practices could take place.' **BR 39** during the 1948 Milltown investigation, referred to some boys being admitted who had 'sex mania', to an incident of venereal disease with a 15 year old prospective resident and appeared to draw a distinction between the older reformatory boys than the industrial boys who perhaps had less experience of the outside world prior to admission. See **Exhibit 8** attached hereto.
  - o **██████████** argued that he could not agree to the provision of chalet type units *'where problem boys are concerned'*. See **Exhibit 7**.

46. Given these accounts, later direct knowledge in the early 1970s, the accounts of ex-residents to the RUC in the mid 1990s and accounts provided by ex-residents to ourselves and our advisors during recent civil claims it is accepted that 'peer abuse' operated at varying levels over a significant time frame.

47. It is accepted that some of this 'peer abuse' was blatant sexual abuse whatever way it is viewed. There are accounts of actual buggery by older boys on younger boys.

48. However, there are also accounts of boys involved in mutual touching and the accounts at times are suggestive of a 'consensual' nature to the interference. I'm loath to underplay the significance of any type of abuse but each complaint in this regard would require careful consideration.

49. I would be surprised if Rubane House was alone in being troubled by such activity. It does not seem to have come as any surprise to the Ministry of Home Affairs officials present at the February 1963 meeting. It is not known whether such problems afflicted other homes run by other religious institutions or those run by the state however the

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46. As a result of the abuse I attended counselling at the Rape Crisis Centre in 1997. I have also received counselling on the Newtownards Road which was organised by the Order of St John of God whose office is on the Antrim Road. The counselling was paid for by the De La Salle Order. I had to walk from my house off the Ravenhill Road to the counselling so [REDACTED] bought me a bike to get there. I attended every two weeks for a year and a half but I didn't find counselling helpful. [REDACTED] is now retired in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].
47. I have gone through life feeling sad and empty. I feel drained. I feel I have no worth, no value. I am lonely. I feel excluded and isolated. I wonder why I am different. I question 'is there something wrong with me?'. I am clamped to the past. I have no qualifications, no employment prospects. I feel completely and utterly contaminated by abuse. I am sexually disorientated. I have prostituted my body and mind – I feel destroyed and worthless. I avoid people where possible. I always try to please and pretend there is nothing wrong. I can't take the risk of letting people get too close. I feel afraid to trust. I am aware of the loneliness and isolation this creates. It is despairing but I feel safer.
48. I have no motivation to make progress in anything. I have never loved or been loved. Simmering beneath the surface I feel dangerously full of unexpressed rage and anger with a dreadful sense of hopelessness. I feel surrounded by unbreakable barriers. I feel perfectly justified in asking myself 'why the hell am I still on this planet?'.
49. Who were these people who decided my life and how it will be? Who decided my sexuality? Who denied me my human right to create a family of my own? Who were those people who failed even to provide a basic education and to prepare children for life outside the institutions. These awful decisions have created considerable misery for many and all for a few seconds of gratification.
50. I have now managed somehow to reach the age of 56 years old, perhaps partly due to the retention of my Catholic faith and the slight glimmer of hope I struggle to keep a hold of in the hope that things might get better. I can honestly say that

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right and the pitchfork went right through my boot into my foot. He took me to an old shed where the potatoes were stored, and he just washed my foot. I've still got a scar. I used to think to myself "what am I doing here, I'm only a kid, I shouldn't be out here".

12. We had a swimming pool. I never liked the water. I can't swim, and I didn't like to wear shorts because of the scars on my back. [REDACTED] BR 15 insisted that I get into the swimming pool. I was hanging onto the side. I nearly drowned and one of the other boys had to pull me out but [REDACTED] BR 15 didn't care. He thought it was funny. What he said went, it was as simple as that. I am still terrified of water after that incident.

13. My mother died, aged [REDACTED] whilst I was at Rubane. I don't think I was told straight away. I think I only found out through word of mouth, from other boys in the home who were from around the same area as me. As soon as I found out, I ran away. I only made it about a mile. A man in a van stopped and brought me back to the home. I think he was a workman at Rubane at the time. As soon as he left, I got a really good hiding, instead of them sitting me down and asking me why I did it. Their answer was always the same "he'll only understand if he gets a good hiding, and he'll know not to do it again".

14. I don't remember any visitors when I was in Rubane, save for my father, who I only recall seeing two or three times. He gave me half a crown. Every time I looked at that coin, I thought of my dad. I don't remember any inspections, or the welfare checking on me. Nobody checked up on us.

15. We were never taken out of the home, except for when we had to go potato picking. I don't remember ever seeing a doctor or nurse, even for a bad earache. When I was in care, the Christian Brothers never helped me at all. I used to stutter really bad when I was younger. We couldn't speak to the Brothers because they had no time for us. They would just say "hurry up and say what you're going to say or shut up". As I got older I learned to handle it a bit better, but I never got any help from them.



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21. We weren't allowed to play soccer. We could only play Gaelic football or Hurling. You got beaten for kicking a ball on the ground. None of that English stuff was allowed.
22. There was an unheated, outdoor swimming pool at Kircubbin. The Brothers would make us go in the pool once a week, even in the winter. They made me jump into the freezing water even though I couldn't swim. BR 15 would whip you with an electric lead to make you jump in.
23. One time the boys were all waiting in the room outside the Dining Hall to go in for dinner. We were all talking. BR 15 came in. He had an electric lead and started to use it as a whip, swinging it wildly. He hit me across the neck and made me bleed. I didn't receive any treatment.
24. One time my towel fell on the floor in the washroom. BR 15 told me to lift it and when I bent over he kneed me in the ribs on my right side. It caused me to have problems breathing for a few weeks. Later in life a Doctor told me that I must have broken my ribs when I was young.
25. I witnessed some of the Brothers watching the boys in the shower. If they took a fancy to one of the boys in particular they would make him shower almost every evening just so they could watch him naked. I believe some of the boys were targeted for sexual gratification. I remember one good looking wee boy who was made to shower most nights. I'm sure one of the Brothers fancied him because generally we didn't shower every night.
26. I remember a Welfare Officer who used to visit us. His name was Seamus Digny. He used to ask me how I was but I couldn't tell him that I was being beaten. He wouldn't have listened. We didn't see him very often. He used to go upstairs to the Brothers and eat with them.
27. We never saw a doctor if we were sick and we were never taken to hospital. I do remember a Dentist visiting.

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18. Another time we were down at the swimming pool and **BR 15** threw a young boy who couldn't swim into the pool just for fun. I think the boy's name was **DL 269** or **DL 269**. He was about a year younger than me, he was around eight and small for his age. He managed to scramble to the side and was gripping onto the handrail at the side when **BR 15** dragged him off it and threw him in again. The boy was trying to paddle underwater and he was screaming 'please Brother, I can't swim, I'll give you my shilling on Sunday'. **BR 15** just laughed and said 'now you see, you can swim if you want, can't you?'. The boy had to agree but he could not swim and he was terrified.

19. I remember when two boys ran away from Rubane and were brought back by police. We were all gathered in the front school room and the boys who had run away were at the front. We were forced to watch while they were given a beating by **BR 17**. The boys were dressed in just their swimming trunks so they had no protection at all. **BR 17** beat them on their backsides and their thighs with a very brutal stick. The boys were beaten so badly they leapt in the air with pain. **BR 17** had sweat dripping off him he was putting so much effort into the beating. Looking back now, I can see the purpose of this public beating was to terrify the boys and show us what would happen if we had the audacity to run away.

20. I was sexually abused in Rubane by **BR 17**. The first time it happened I was about nine years of age. It was a summer evening and I was coming back from playing football. I went up to the dormitory and **BR 17** was there. I was looking for a headache tablet and he gave me an Alka Seltzer then he put his hand up my shorts and touched my private parts. This happened in his room beside the dorms. I didn't know what to do. He kissed me on the forehead and I walked out of the room. **BR 17** did this to me a few times. I knew it was wrong but I never knew what to do. I decided to tell the priest in confession but he just told me to tell the Principal. I cannot recall the name of the priest but he was the regular priest who **[REDACTED]** at Rubane. I blurted out that the Principal knew

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maybe [REDACTED] BR 3 [REDACTED] would take you into the schoolhouse and give you a good hiding. If you were caught sneaking out to the shop in Kircubbin, you were in big trouble. We had our own tuck shop in Rubane, because the Brothers didn't want us out on the street. They didn't want anybody seeing us. We were given 2 shillings a week pocket money to spend in the tuck shop.

25. With every new boy who came in to Rubane, [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] would make the older boys throw him into the deep end of the swimming pool, whether he could swim or not. [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] would then make the two boys drag him out and throw him back in again. They kept throwing him in to try to teach him how to swim. The boy would be panicking and drowning and the water was freezing cold. This happened to me as well. The shock of the cold as well as not being able to swim was terrible. It was always the same older boys who [REDACTED] BR 15 [REDACTED] made throw the new boys in.

26. We wanted to put a roof over the swimming pool and get it heated with the money we raised from picking potatoes. The Brothers had asked us what we wanted to use the money for and we said that. We were so shocked they were going to do something nice for us but they didn't. They ended up buying lots of band equipment which everyone hated because nobody wanted to be in a band. I was made to play [REDACTED] in the band. My brother [REDACTED] DL 245 [REDACTED] was also in the band for a while.

27. [REDACTED] BR 44 [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] and he was the most evil one. Every time I got a note wrong he would hit me on the knuckles. He was always running around with a drumstick and he would hit people on the head with it. We hated the band because we got battered all the time. We got punished every day; you couldn't get out of it.

28. There was a civilian teacher called [REDACTED] DL 6 [REDACTED] who taught [REDACTED] We always called him [REDACTED] for short. If you got something wrong, he would lift the closest piece of wood, and whack you on the head with it, or across the hands.

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windows were smashed when I was staying there. They did not want Catholics staying in the area. My grandparents were the only Catholic family living in a mainly Protestant street. A young lad who lived across the road from my grandparents hit my grandfather on the back of the head with a gun. A minister, [REDACTED] helped to relocate my grandparents to [REDACTED]

36. The Brothers would pick us up at the end of the summer and I hated going back as it meant not seeing NHB 12 again. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I keep in touch with my brothers.

37. The dentist at Rubane House came up in a caravan to provide treatment and we were scared of him as he used to pull out a lot of teeth at a time rather than giving you fillings. I can't remember his real name. We called him [REDACTED]

38. There was a [REDACTED] at Rubane House, DL 6 who was very wicked. He called you fat head or something insulting like that. He threw wooden mallets and chisels at us and sometimes he would hit you with it if you made a mistake. The Brothers didn't mind him being there because he was one of their very good [REDACTED]

39. BR 3 and BR 6 also hit me on the hand with a cane during my time at Rubane House. This was normally only for something trivial like having dirty shoes. BR 12 hit me with a stick on my backside. I understand that BR 12 and BR 6 may now [REDACTED] I would not want to see BR 3 brought to court for any assaults upon me due to the fact that he is now quite elderly.

40. I do not recall any inspections in Nazareth Lodge but there were open days at Rubane House when well dressed rich people gave donations. I recall the Lord Mayor talking to us. I cannot recall if we were allowed or not allowed to speak to these people. I think we were separated from them and they spoke to the brothers. We got plenty of notice they were coming and we had to dress up in our scouts outfits. I have photographs of the Lord Mayor's visit and there is a photograph of me when I was fourteen in the scouts.



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location so I made a statement about Nazareth Lodge and another about Rubane House.

13. DC [DL 510] did not understand my account of events so I had to show him what [BR 33] did to me on a table in an interview room in Musgrave police station. DC [DL 510] made a comment asking what did I want him to do, to "twist the truth" and I was very disappointed by his attitude and by this response. The following week his colleague [ ] phoned to advise me it was highly unlikely that they could get [BR 33] as he had been out of the jurisdiction [ ] years.
14. I only know the names of two of the ex-residents who made complaints about [BR 33] [DL 324] and [DL 204] [DL 204] was in Chalet 1 and [BR 5] was in charge of him. He was one of the last residents to leave Rubane House. He is now deceased as he was arrested for some reason and he committed suicide by [ ]
15. I recall one incident when [DL 204] [DL 324] and [DL 361] protested on the roof of the gym about the abuse the boys had to endure in the home. [BR 8] shouted at them to get down or he would call the police. The boys told him to go ahead and report it but he never did.
16. There was a civilian [ ] at Rubane House, [DL 6] He often called me stupid and hit me over the head frequently with his hands or he would throw things at me. On one occasion he threw a wooden box at me.
17. There was another brother in Kircubbin, [ ] who was guilty of sexual and physical abuse. I was always told by the other boys to stay away from him. It was happening everywhere, it was happening in the farmyard in Kircubbin, it was happening in the Brother's house. [ ] known as [ ] was in charge of the home at the time. He retired after Rubane House closed down and now lives on the [ ] [ ]

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14. The Brothers I remember are **BR 5** **BR 6** **BR 10** **BR 9** and **BR 33** I was in chalet and **BR 5** was in I got on well with him and we played golf together at a course in
15. I went to school onsite in Rubane and I did O-Levels in Art and English Literature. There was a big sports hall and a swimming pool and a tuck shop onsite as well. I had my own car in Rubane which I had bought off my brother <sup>SND 245</sup> The Brothers found me a garage to park the car in and I was allowed to drive it around the grounds.
16. There was abuse in Rubane. One day during when we were playing indoor football, the **DL 360** got very physical tackling me and I didn't like it so I kicked in every door on his car. He saw me doing this through the window at the gym. He punched me on the face and broke my nose. I told **BR 5** what happened and he didn't do anything. I received no medical treatment. I never played indoor football again and tried to avoid **DL 360** This was the only time I was physically abused in Rubane.
17. I witnessed **BR 82** who was slapping boys around the back of the head. He also took boys into a storeroom off the classroom and I could hear the slaps. I remember **DL 29** and **DL 361** being hit. I also saw **BR 10** hit boys where no-one would see a mark. He never hit me.
18. I did not suffer any sexual abuse in Rubane and I was not aware that any sexual abuse was taking place. Some boys were mentally abused by a member of staff. I do not recall the name of the staff member. He told the boys that they were a 'waste of space' and 'useless'. I remember a boy called from being abused in this way. His nickname was I was not verbally abused in this way. I told **BR 5** what was said and he told me to leave it with him.
19. I left Rubane when I was sixteen years old in 1984. It closed down and I was one of the last residents to leave.

1 hands behind my back again without the football. He  
2 kicked me in the privates several times. Nothing done  
3 about it. I pissed blood. I pished -- I actually  
4 pished a pint of blood the next day. I told the  
5 Brothers what happened. I was passing blood. They sent  
6 me out to a doctor. The doctor sent me to hospital and  
7 the doctor turned and says in front of them ones, "It  
8 shouldn't be happening. He is getting hit down there  
9 too much" and they says, "Ah, sure, kids will be kids  
10 because they play football. Boys will get kicked down  
11 below with balls", but I wasn't there to tell the doctor  
12 by myself that it was DL149, because every time you went  
13 to see a doctor, they were in. They were trying to keep  
14 you quiet for other people not to say things to them  
15 ones.

16 Now they had their own personal doctors. If  
17 anything -- like say somebody broke an arm, broke a jaw,  
18 got a nose busted or anything like that. They bought  
19 a doctor from outside in, paid the doctor to bandage you  
20 up. Know what I mean? I time I got stabbed, it took  
21 them two hours to take me from Kircubbin, De La Salle  
22 Boys' Home into hospital after being stabbed in the  
23 back. It took them two hours. I lost what, two, maybe  
24 three, four pints of blood and they took their sweet FA  
25 time to take me down to the hospital. Know what I mean,

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soiled sheets for a week before they were changed. There was a strong smell of urine in the dormitories from the damp mattresses.

8. Everybody had chores to do in the morning before breakfast. The wooden floors in the posh bit of the house got scuffed because of the shoes worn by the Brothers. We had to sweep the floors and then five or six boys would shuffle arm in arm, cleaning and polishing the floors with rags on our feet. If we weren't polishing the floors, we would have maybe been cleaning toilets, sweeping the dormitories or mopping. We then had to run to get breakfast, but if we were caught running, we wouldn't get any breakfast and we were given a hiding instead. The Brothers always used a cane to punish us and we were hit round the back of the legs.
9. The Brothers had a habit of grabbing us by the ear, if we stepped out of line. If we said anything, they would give us a good hiding with the cane. I remember one young boy was caught smoking and he was stripped right down to his underpants. They bent him over a chair and whipped him. The door was shut and whatever went on behind closed doors, stayed there. It's as simple as that.
10. The food wasn't great. I don't remember eating any nice food. For breakfast we were given lumpy porridge and a slice of bread, with old-fashioned margarine. I remember eating corned beef. It was the same food every day, and we were never given enough. We were always hungry.
11. We used to have to pick potatoes in the fields from very early in the morning. I think we were collected by a tractor or van every morning and taken to the fields. I'm not sure if the farmers paid for us to help or if they gave potatoes to the Brothers. I never saw any money for it. I'll never forget it. I think it was winter time because it was freezing cold, and we were only wearing shorts and wellies that were far too big for us. My hands were blue and my legs were cold. The only way I could warm myself up was to urinate on my hands. I would then be smacked around the ear. One day I was trying to lift the potatoes out with a pitchfork, but my hands were so cold that I couldn't work it



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Rubane House, De La Salle Boys Home, Kircubbin (In/around 1967)

17. I left Nazareth Lodge when I was eleven and moved to Rubane House, Kircubbin, County Down. We were collected in a minibus by [BR 6] [BR 6] was in charge of the home at the time.

18. I slept upstairs in the main house for the first six months I was in Rubane House. [BR 15] was in charge of the main house. He used to come in to the dormitories in the morning and rap the legs of the beds and lift them up and throw the boys out of the bed. I think his name was [BR 15] [BR 15] [BR 6] was [REDACTED] when I was transferred to Rubane.

19. They had built four chalets and I got moved into Chalet [REDACTED] There were three rooms with four boys in each room. There were two single rooms for two of the boys and a brother and a nun also had two single rooms. There was a really good [REDACTED] nun there, [SR 32] that looked after me well. [BR 6] also stayed in Chalet [REDACTED] He and [SR 32] had their own rooms in the landing. I had a single room because I asked for it.

20. All the boys used to stay up the stairs in the bedrooms. There were four chalets.

21. There used to be a wet house for the boys who wet the bed. They used to stay in the old farm house. A lot of boys wet the bed but I never had that problem.

22. The timetable at Rubane was the same as the Lodge. You had to get up early in the morning, get ready for prayers and then you'd go down below the cellars to get your breakfast. You got porridge and a big loaf amongst six boys and all the boys would grab the bread because they were so hungry and you had to be quick or you didn't get any. Breakfast was always the same.

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in the house at the bottom end of the farm with the boys that wet the bed. He would just stand there, bring his penis out, and then make me touch him. He touched me at times as well. I tried to leave right away after Mass so that he wouldn't be able to get near me.

17. We had lunch, and then we had to clean up our dishes and cutlery. We were out in the yard after lunch, and then we were lined up in our classes and marched into the classroom, where we stayed until around 4.00pm. We were then taken in to the boot room where we had to take our shoes off and put our slippers on, if you were lucky enough to get slippers. We then had tea, and we were allowed out in the yard for a short while. We said the Rosary every night, and the Benedictions on three nights of the week and then we went to bed. At weekends we had to clean the stairwells, the great big staircase, all of the corridors and halls, the bathrooms of the Brothers, the dining room, the showers and toilets, and the wash-basins. We were always doing something.

18. We were always hungry. If we weren't fit enough or fast enough when we were brought in for breakfast or our evening meal, it was gone. If I didn't dive for food then I went hungry. The food was always basic, and not very nourishing. We had porridge in the mornings. I think that school dinners may have been delivered because I remember a wee van came up and delivered aluminium cylinders. I think that a loaf or half a loaf, already buttered, was put on the table for dinner. I can't remember exactly what was on it, but even as small children, we would have wanted more than we were given. Even a child who wasn't a great eater would have wanted more. I was always craving more food.

19. In the summer there was a market garden, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and goose gabs. **BR 13** was in charge of this because he was the money man. The market had quite a reputation for its produce. We used to have to go in lines to collect the fruit. We weren't allowed to eat it but we were hungry so we would just beat it into us. We couldn't hide the juice on our faces though and **BR 13** would give us a dig on the