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no assistance. I had to go and get clean sheets and make my own bed at a young age.

8. One morning about 4am **HIA 331** and I were being bathed in cold water. I was about nine years old. The lady who was washing us was a civilian worker called **NHB 33**. I think she may have been in her fifties and she had a **[REDACTED]**. She abused me. **HIA 331** was at one end of the bath and I was at the other. The woman made me kneel and then she put her fingers into my vagina whilst I was in the bath. I remember the horror of it. I knew what she was doing was wrong but there was nothing I could do about it.
9. Before **HIA 331** and I were sent to Australia we were baptised into the Catholic Church. The nuns took us around the old people's home and they gave us money. I never had money in my life. I had a wallet where I kept the money and when **HIA 331** and I were being taken to the ship for Australia the civilian worker called **NHB 33** said 'I'll hold that for you lovey' and I never saw it again. I believe we received our First Communion at the same time as our baptism. I remember because we got peaches to eat as a treat.
10. No one ever asked me did I want to go to Australia. I do remember that I was going on my own to the doctors about three times. **NHB 33** took me. **HIA 331** then started to come with me on these appointments. I also recall a dental appointment when I got a mould of my teeth taken. I recall being in the playground on a swing one day and **SR 177** said to me 'are you scared about going to Australia?'. I didn't know where Australia was and I replied 'I don't know'. No one explained where Australia was or what was going to happen to us.
11. My Child Migration Form is dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 1952. The section for parent's or guardian's consent is signed by **SR 99** the Mother Superior of Nazareth House and witnessed by Father Cyril Stinson. My medical examination form is dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 1952 and it is signed by **[REDACTED]**. I was called **[REDACTED]** by the nuns in Nazareth House but my

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10. I felt neglected. We weren't fed properly. I was always hungry. Breakfast was either lumpy porridge or bread in dripping. It was basically the same food every day. We were given lumpy fatty stew. If I didn't eat my dinner, because it was fatty, the nuns would hold my mouth until I swallowed it. If I was sick, the nuns would make me eat my vomit. I don't believe I was the only person that this happened to. As I got older, I realised it was easier to just try to eat the food. Sometimes the older girls would supervise meal times and they were just as bad as the nuns. Sometimes we had to eat standing up because there weren't enough chairs.
11. When we went to bed, the nuns would come round and make us cross our hands and legs so that the devil could not get to our body. We did not even understand who the devil was, but as we grew older we believed it to be the nuns and the priests.
12. I was sexually abused by the nuns. I did not understand until I left the home, what the nuns had done to me and how wrong it was. We were too young to understand that we were being abused. The nuns would call us out of bed and take us to the nun's bathroom. They might have taken one girl, or a few girls, who would wait outside the bathroom as we were taken in to the bathroom one by one. There were two nuns in the bathroom. I was told to take off my nightdress, and I would have to stand naked in the cold bathroom. I was told to get up on a table and spread my legs so that they could examine me. One of the nuns would put her finger inside my vagina. Then she would hit me and tell me I was smelly and dirty. She would laugh at me until I cried, and then hit me again. She would also hit me on the vagina with a brush. The other nun would be watching and giggling. I don't remember the names of these nuns, but I remember that one of them would have been wearing a white dress. This would happen every couple of weeks. Many a night I did not feel safe in my bed knowing what was going to happen. I cried myself to sleep most nights. I only realised after I left the home, through conversations with other people, that what the nuns did to me was wrong.



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13. We had to go to Confession every week. We were only children and weren't doing anything wrong so we would make up our sins. On one occasion, when I was aged about ten years, I was one of the last girls to make it to Confession. The priest came out of the Confessional Box. He got me by my ears, pushed me on the floor and then dragged me back up again. He dragged me in to the Sacristy. He pulled my pants down, forced my legs open and raped me. I didn't know what he had done, but I knew that I didn't like it, and I didn't like the smell of him. I was screaming and kicking and he held his hands over my mouth. He told me that I wasn't worthy and made me beg for forgiveness, and he told me that I had the devil's eyes. I don't recall this priest's name, however he was the regular priest that gave Mass every day, and took our Confessions every week. This was the only time that this happened.
14. There was an old people's home on the other side of the convent. Sometimes we were taken up there and we would be told to sit on an old man's knee. I was never comfortable with this. The old men would touch us on our legs and we would pull away. The nuns would laugh and say "oh go on and give him a hug". It felt like we were being used when we were brought over to the old men.
15. We went to primary school on the grounds of Nazareth House, and then St Monica's Secondary School. My education was inadequate. It was mostly about religion. I learned how to say my prayers forwards and backwards. The only book I can remember was the Bible. I recall one occasion when the Reverend Mother came to the classroom, with a visiting priest. I was being asked questions on the Bible. I said "well if Jesus was a Jew, God was a Jew, why are we Catholics? I don't want to be a Catholic anymore, I want to be a Jew". I was dragged by the hair and they shouted "how dare you, with a name like that". I was slapped and told I wasn't worthy, and made to kiss the priest's feet.
16. Nobody was monitoring our education. We were never tested on any subjects. We were taught our ABC's and how to count but I was never encouraged to

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study or take exams to get a good start in life in the workplace. I felt very let down in terms of the education I was given.

17. I recall a girl called [REDACTED] being given a beautiful box of beads by her mother. The nuns immediately took it off her and said she couldn't have it. At Christmas, I received that present by accident from Father Christmas, and the nuns took it off me and gave it to [REDACTED]. Everybody else got whatever stuff the nuns had collected, dolls that were pieced together. I pulled the Christmas tree down, and then I wasn't allowed any dinner. I never believed in Father Christmas after that.

18. I always knew my age and my birthday, because my birthday was on a feast day, but we never got presents or even sang Happy Birthday to each other. Very few of us had visitors at Nazareth House. If the nuns knew that there were going to be visitors in the home, they would have dressed us nicer than normal. I don't remember ever seeing a Social Worker.

19. I remember when I was aged around nine or ten years, we were all brought to see the children being sent away to Australia and Canada. I hid because I was terrified that they were going to put me on this boat and send me to the end of the world. I hid behind a bin and a taxi man found me and brought me back to Nazareth House.

20. At one stage, after I was a bit older, I told a nun about what the priest had done to me in the Sacristy. I was aged about fourteen years at the time. Suddenly I was moved to the Good Shepherd Convent. I believe they were getting rid of me because I told somebody that the priest had raped me.

**Good Shepherd Convent, Belfast, 9<sup>th</sup> June 1962 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1963**

21. I was moved to the Good Shepherd Convent to work. I worked in the laundry until the age of fourteen years. I never received any wages. I was not allowed to leave the Convent at any time. I just worked in the laundry rooms and cleaned. It was really hot in the wash rooms and press rooms. It was like a prison. The nuns made us work even harder there than in Nazareth House.



to sit the 11+ we were all queuing up and the nerves got the better of me. I began to laugh out of nerves and [SR 31] grabbed me, gave me a beating and said I wasn't doing the 11+. We all went to St. Monica's Secondary School – I don't remember anyone ever going to a different school.

13. My mother's family always came to take [NHB 107] out but not me. They'd take her out on a Sunday. The family blamed me for us being taken into care. They used to say if I hadn't gone out and got attacked we wouldn't have been taken but I was only six or seven. My mother should have been looking after me. I believe the man who attacked me was convicted and served time in prison.

14. When I was about nine they made me start looking after the old people in Nazareth House after school and at the weekends. I was the only one sent over to do this. I did it until I was fourteen or fifteen. [SR 31] said it was to get the devil out of me and to keep me away from the other children. I used to have to bathe the old ladies, change their nappies and if they were dying I had to sit up all night with them and then wash their dead bodies. A civilian woman I called 'Matron' and two Scottish girls worked there and they were good to me. They were in their early 20's and they used to buy me sweets with their wages.

15. I continued to wet the bed until I was about eleven. I remember coming home one day and telling [SR 134] I had cut myself because I didn't know I had gotten my period. I lay all night thinking I was dying. I was terrified of getting a hiding. I was put into a dark room and then I was brought out to the canteen and put in front of everyone to tell them I was a woman now. You had to go to [SR 134] to ask for a sanitary towel. They were old-fashioned ones with a belt and you only got one for the day and one for night time.

16. The older girls used to try to bully me but they picked the wrong girl. I got in trouble for standing up for myself. One time a woman who used to look after us when the nuns were away praying got into my bed and tried to touch me but I beat her out of my bed. I was about eight or nine at the time. She was an adult civilian worker the nuns brought in to keep an eye on us when they were at prayer. I don't remember her name – we just knew her as 'Miss'.

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up in a row outside the nun's cell. I wet the bed a lot. We had to take our sheets and wash them in the bath. If you wet the bed the first night, you got four whacks with a cane. If you wet the bed two nights in a row, you got eight whacks and so on.

6. **SR 116** used to shout at me that my mother didn't want me and they were stuck with me and they didn't want me either. I remember the swish of the roly poly bamboo cane as it went through the air. **SR 116** would lose control and hit me on the head and the hands. She would always hit me on the knuckles where it hurt the most. We would have to hold out our knuckles, we never got hit on the palm. I used to have black and blue knuckles all the time; they were always swollen.
7. Every morning I woke up terrified my bed would be wet, especially if it was the fifth night in a row. I knew then I would be getting twenty whacks. I used to lie and say I hadn't wet the bed to save myself from a beating. I would just sleep in the wet sheets night after night. We must have smelled terrible when we went out to school. I wet the bed up until I was 13. They got a special device which set off a buzzer if you wet the bed and it must have worked.
8. We went to Mass every morning and we also had to say the Rosary and Benedictions throughout the day. The priests I remember are **NHB 84** and Canon Daly. Canon Daly had a relative in the old ladies part of the home. I remember one night I woke up in the middle of the night and **NHB 84** was standing at the edge of my bed. He was quite young at the time. I was about 7 or 8. My nightdress was around my waist. I don't remember anything sexual happening but when I look back as an adult I wonder if I was sexually abused. As soon as I woke up **NHB 84** moved away. That is the only time I remember anything like that happening but it has really stuck in my mind. We would never have seen the priest in the dormitory.
9. After Mass we went down for breakfast which was usually porridge. The food wasn't great but it kept us alive. For dinner we would have meatballs, beans



7. Further to paragraph 8, there would be no reason for Father Fullerton to be in the children's dormitory without being accompanied by a Sister and at night-time. As we were not made aware of this incident, we do not believe we can comment further.
8. With regard to paragraph 9, the food was always the best standard we could provide. In the interests of the child, the Sisters would encourage them to eat the meals provided as there may not have been another option. We are pleased that Stella has acknowledged she was not hungry in the home.
9. With regard to paragraph 10, the Sisters sought to provide an adequate education for all children; we are glad that Stella has acknowledged her strengths within school.
10. With regard to paragraph 11, we regret that any child under our care was given the stigma of being from a home. The Sisters endeavoured to provide the children with a similar upbringing to children in a familial home as best they could in the environment and it is deeply upsetting that any child resident was made to feel this way.
11. With regard to paragraph 12, the Sisters would have encouraged the children to spend time with local couples or families. Whilst the same checks and balances were not in place as in today's society, the Sisters would try to ensure that those responsible for the children were pleasant and good-natured people. Although the McKeowns' did not have many material things, we are happy that Stella had happy times with this family.
12. With regards to paragraph 13 & 14, the Congregation accepts that the children were given chores within the home; however we do not believe these to be excessive. The punishments described by Stella are the first of this kind to be considered by the Congregation. The Congregation does not believe the children would be sent to bed at 5pm, without any supper, for a month. Whilst the children may have helped in the laundry, this would have been merely assisting the Sister in her duties.
13. With regard to paragraph 15, we reiterate that no child would have been sent to bed without any supper for a month.
14. With regard to paragraph 16, the Sisters were delighted to offer Irish Dancing to the children, as many other children in Northern Ireland would not have been given this opportunity. We do not accept that the children were in trouble if they did not win medals and cups.

and dressed and fed and would then have brought them over to School after, At least some of them, attending Mass . I would have come into contact with the children at school on occasions when I would have attended to visit to speak with them on matters of religious education and to assist in the preparation for First Communion, Confession and Confirmation. I do not recall ever being in attendance for their First Communion or Confirmation and believe that these may in fact have taken place in the Parish Church rather than in the Church in the House. This would have been quite a sensible approach as it would have involved the children being part of the wider community in the Ormeau Road/Ravenhill area. Other than that I really had very little contact with the children. I do recall all the children making Confessions and this would have been reasonably regularly as would have been the practice at the time. Maybe once a month, that sort of time period. My recollection is that the children would have come over in their group with the Sister who was in charge of their group. They would each have said their confession and then would have waited in the Church and then returned to the residence in their group as a unit. The Confessions which I carried out were always held in the Chapel inside Nazareth House itself.

9. Dr. Cathal Daly lived in [REDACTED] close to the House with his mother and sister while he was a lecturer at Queens University. He celebrated Mass sometimes in Nazareth House and took the evening service of Rosary and Benediction occasionally.
10. I remember the layout of the house as follows. There were rooms to the front of the building at ground floor level and that is where I had my breakfast. On the Ravenhill side at Groundfloor level was the residence for the elderly men. On the Ormeau Road side there was a long corridor on the first floor and a room which had some of the youngest children in it. Along the corridor was a stairway which led to the area where the elderly ladies lived on the first floor. At the end of the corridor a stairway led up to the chapel on the first floor and at the end of the corridor at ground floor level were the classrooms. Beyond these rooms were the dining room and residence for the girls but I never visited these. There was also a hall where occasional entertainments were held.
11. I have been asked to respond to an allegation brought by a former resident,



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18. There was also a pecking order for the doctor. A doctor did visit the home but the reason I do not really remember him is that only certain girls would be called to attend with the doctor. The girls who were beaten and had marks on their body were not asked to attend with him. I saw a doctor very rarely as he might have attended the day before I had my head punched into a wall or I had marks on me for some reason. We never received any medication for our injuries and I recall us trying to soothe the wounds with spoons from the dining room as they were cold on our skin. You weren't allowed to cry because if the nuns caught you they would give you something to cry about. As a teenager and a young adult in my twenties I had an attitude where I wouldn't cry for anyone and I would not show any emotion. I put up a wall that people could not penetrate and unfortunately that shut people out including people who were trying to be kind to me in later life like my ex husband. I think that inability to trust others will never go away. I do not think I will ever have a partner. I always feel that I will be alone with no religion and no faith in anything. I envy people who still have their faith, at least they have something.

19. Another resident called [REDACTED] NHB 29 would have received similar treatment to me from [REDACTED] SR 116 and [REDACTED] SR 31. Myself, [REDACTED] NHB 29 and another girl, I think her name was [REDACTED] were on our hands and knees scrubbing floors on numerous occasions when the other residents were given time for recreation and were not expected to do hard work at this time. [REDACTED] SR 116 also abused [REDACTED] NHB 29. I never kept in touch with anyone from the home so I do not know how [REDACTED] NHB 29 got on in life.

20. I was picked on by other residents. They would put me into a sheet and throw me up in the air which always scared me because if the sheet broke you would just go through it. If a nun saw this going on instead of coming to my rescue she would just walk out of the room as "it was only [REDACTED] HIA 161 and they would not care about what happened to me. I was terrified of some of the senior girls; they had the authority of the nuns to abuse you and get away with it. They just became like the nuns, exactly like them.

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the nuns told me that she was an alcoholic. My oldest sister said she sent it to us due to the guilt she felt for not looking after us. It was the only time of year when my sisters and I were actually called together as sisters. SR 116 SR 116 would open the box and show us everything. I recall everything being taken out of the box so that we could see it and we were all given dolls but then we were told to go and the nuns retained the contents of the box and said it was going to a better cause. I know that my older sister [REDACTED] wrote letters to my mother after we would have received the tea chest. But it was never her own words; the nuns controlled what was written.

16. My sister started to make up stories about our parents. She would tell people that our father was John Wayne and that he could not visit us as he was off filming and I believed her up until I was fifteen. We were trying to invent a family, trying to invent some love and to make excuses to explain why no-one ever came to visit us. Those children who had visitors were treated differently because they had somebody on the outside that they could tell or report to if they were treated badly by any of the nuns. The nuns knew this and treated the children with parents differently.
17. The nuns also had favourites, we called them their pets. When they became more senior they acted like the nuns and they would bully you as much as the nuns had done and the nuns would turn a blind eye to their behaviour. SR 116 SR 116 for some reason used to walk around with fruit and she would give this fruit to her favourite's right in front of you knowing that you were not going to get any fruit. I knew where I stood in the pecking order. There were also Christmas parties and some companies would invite the children in the home and SR 116 also attended. Your number had to be on the list to be able to attend and I just always knew my name wasn't going to be called out. I did however get to one of these parties. I recall being on the bus and SR 116 SR 116 sat behind me and slapped me around my head for no reason. That treatment has left me to this day nervous of anyone coming up behind me or walking behind me. Some of the girls loved to see my sisters and I being picked on. They would laugh because it wasn't them.



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a nice priest who said Mass in Nazareth House called Father Fullerton and [REDACTED] would rock over and back saying "Father Fullerton loves me". Father Fullerton was only there for a few months and then he was replaced by Father McGuckian who was alright.

20. Sometimes my sisters and I got out to our mother for a day at weekends. We weren't allowed out for the full weekend, just a day. I used to be sick coming back from these days out because [REDACTED] SR 31 always told us to see if our parents had any money for them. I would dread coming back to the home because when I told [REDACTED] SR 31 I had no money for her she let the whole place know. She would say out in front of all the other children 'we're not keeping you for nothing, what do you think we are – a charity?' It got to the stage that when my mother said she would take us out I'd say I didn't want to go because I dreaded the humiliation so much. I would actually be throwing up before I went back and my mother would ask me why I wasn't well but I couldn't tell her.

21. One time when we were out visiting my mother and my older sister [REDACTED] NHB 66 [REDACTED] NHB 66 noticed that there were big chunks of hair missing from my sister [REDACTED] NHB 69 neck. [REDACTED] NHB 69 had really long hair and somebody had obviously been pulling at it because half her hair was missing. [REDACTED] NHB 66 said she was going to ask the nuns about it but I begged her not to because it would be me who would be punished. I would have been murdered. In the end she didn't say anything. I never told my mother what was happening because I was terrified of her ringing up the nuns and then I would be punished.

22. When I was about 11 or 12 I was sexually abused by an older girl called [REDACTED] HIA 430 [REDACTED] HIA 430 She seemed massive to me. She was about 14 or 15 and she was much taller and broader than me. She had short brown hair, red rosy cheeks and a very square nose. She came into the dormitory one night and told me to come with her. I didn't know what was happening so I went with her. She brought me into her dormitory and told me to get into bed. She said if I didn't she would go and get one of my sisters instead so I got into bed. She took off her nightdress and made me take off mine. We weren't allowed to wear a vest

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or underwear under our nightdress. She lay on top of me and kissed me on the mouth and touched my breasts and my vagina. She made me touch her breasts and vagina and made me put my fingers inside her vagina.

23. This happened about twice a week for 4-6 months. I think she was abusing other girls too. She was doing it for her own satisfaction and she always seemed to want somebody new. If somebody new came in, she got fed up with you and pushed you to the side. She must have got bored with me after a few months because she stopped then. I last saw her when I was about 14 when she was leaving the home. I haven't seen her since but the police have told me she is now living in England.

24. I had nobody I could tell about the abuse. I couldn't tell the nuns because I was terrified of them. I think they knew what was going on. I actually saw two nuns kissing once – SR 31 and SR 187. SR 187 was a young nun, she was only about 20 and she was a novice. She was a beautiful girl and all the delivery men fancied her. SR 31 seemed to have a hold over her and she used to get me to pass notes to her. Then one day I was going down to the pantry and I saw them kissing but I hid because if they knew I had seen them I would have been murdered. SR 187 was a lovely nun; she was different to the rest. She always made you feel welcome and she would put her arm around you. You could have a laugh with her, not like the others and she used to give us cigarettes. The only time I ever felt safe was up in the kitchen with SR 187. I went to work there after I left school at 15. You were either put in the kitchen or the old people's home and the kitchen was the best place to be.

25. When I was about 13 or 14 a family of three girls came into Nazareth House. I think they were called the [REDACTED]. They ranged in age from about 9 to 11. They had sores on their heads when they came in and Sister SR 31 got me out of bed to wash their heads. She made me scrub them with a scrubbing brush over the sink. The girls were screaming and blood was pouring from their heads. I was crying but SR 31 just kept saying I



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18. If you had done anything wrong in Nazareth House, you would be called into the hall with the rest of the girls, your number would be called out and you would be asked to come up to the stage. Once there, you would be told to lie down and one nun would hold both your legs in the air, whilst another nun would hit you repeatedly across the bottom with a stick, a hairbrush, or whatever implement they could get their hands on. They would also ask you to bend over a low bench or chair and again hit you repeatedly. This happened to me once and I saw it happen to other girls on numerous occasions. It was so degrading. **SR 189** usually carried out these beatings with the help of whatever nun she could get.
19. The most traumatic times for me in the home were when I was subjected to sexual abuse by the older girls. This would happen at night time or in some cases during the day, if they got the chance to get us on our own. The girls would take us to the bathroom, and make us kneel down and perform oral sex on them. They would force us to do this and push our heads towards their genital area. I was in my teens when this happened and I experienced this several times. I cannot say with certainty who these older girls were. There was one particular older girl called **NHB 41** who was a bully and physically abused me but I couldn't say if it was her who sexually abused me.
20. **NHB 41** used to pull the hair out of my head and one time I ran into the church where the nuns were praying to get away from **NHB 41**. In front of all the nuns, she grabbed me from the altar and dragged me by the hair out of there. I was screaming for help but the nuns just sat there and did nothing. I believe **NHB 41** was sent to the Good Shepherd and when you go there your name is changed. At the time I thought I was the only one this was happening to but from speaking to girls in later years I found out this was not the case. A lot of girls were sexually abused by older girls in the home. We just couldn't talk about it at the time. I don't know if the nuns were aware of the sexual abuse going on but I later heard that an older girl was caught sexually abusing a younger girl and she was sent to the Good

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They tried to say it was ringworm or something and I was given cream to deal with it. I still have problems with my scalp.

10. The bath water was never changed and we shared towels. We were given old dirty shoes to wear that didn't fit.
11. **HIA 430** was older than me and my bed was next to hers in my dormitory. She pretended to tell us stories and got us to lean around her bed. She took our hands and she tried to get us to touch her. This happened a few times and I always pulled my hand away.
12. On one occasion I was crying and I told **SR 134** about what had happened. **SR 134** beat me on the head with keys. She moved me out of the dormitory and put me in a store room on the landing which had a small camp bed. She then moved me to outside her cell where my bed was near the fire escape.
13. **HIA 430** continued to hit me after this as she knew I told **SR 134** I was bullied by **HIA 430** and other older girls. If I received anything, the bullies would have stolen it from me. They would thump and kick me. For example, if I had a ball they would take it off me and thump me.
14. There was no one to tell. The nuns wouldn't have been believed you and they would have beaten you.
15. I was starving with hunger all the time. The stew was water with bits of grizzled fat in it. We got dipped bread from a dirty oven and we were given black pudding. The nuns probably got the good meat. I remember climbing the wall at back of Holy Rosary Chapel to get to the pear trees. We were constantly starving. On one occasion I remember someone brought in greasy apples and we were given them to eat.
16. There was a doctor, Dr Hunter I think, who came in and gave injections for measles and children's illnesses. I got a BCG injection. **SR 134** knew this

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## THE INQUIRY INTO THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 430

I, HIA 430 will say as follows:-

1. I have been passed copies of the allegations made against me whilst I was a resident in Nazareth House.
2. Firstly, I categorically deny the allegations that have been made against me by HIA 28 in her statement.
3. The allegation she makes at paragraph 22 is inconceivable. The allegation is made that this occurred at midnight. My bed was situated at the top of the dormitory nearest to SR 31 bed. SR 31 had a clear view of the whole dormitory and the children's beds through a glass partition. Children were not allowed out of their beds at all at night time, and she had quite sharp hearing and she scolded children who made any noise or got out of bed.
4. Furthermore, I had, as per my statement, chronic enuresis which occurred on a nightly basis throughout my time in Nazareth House. In fact this continued for some time even after I left Nazareth House and relocated to England.
5. I have read the statement of HIA 103. This statement is also totally untrue.
6. I have a very vivid recollection of my time at Nazareth House and I can confirm that absolutely none of these allegations made against me are true.

Statement of Truth.

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

Signed

HIA 430

Dated

9 Feb 2015



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oddball in the group. I don't know if that's because I was being financially supported by my stepfather in America which I didn't know at the time. There were times I got dresses and dolls sent to me but they were never given to me. We dared not to question it.

7. There was an older girl in the home called **NHB 76** who sexually molested me. It happened more than one time. She made me smack her and made me touch her breast. She touched my breasts too. After our bath she would dry me but she wasn't drying me right. She made me touch her below the waist. It was tough - I didn't want to do it but she was a big girl and I had to do what she told me. She used to bring us to bed and one night I told my best friend **NHB 103** that **NHB 76** made me feel her bum. All of a sudden the door barged open and **NHB 76** said **HIA 134** get out of bed and stand outside **SR 199** office now". I was never so scared in all my life standing there in the dark.
8. **SR 199** came then and told me to repeat what I had said to **NHB 103** so I did. Of course I was made out to be a liar. **SR 199** said I was just making it up for attention. It was really humiliating. Even when I spoke the truth she didn't believe me. This has affected my faith in the authorities to this day. I went back to bed and cried myself to sleep. I was about eight or nine at the time. That left me feeling really dirty and ashamed. Then telling **SR 199** the truth and not being believed left me devastated.
9. I had chores to do in the home and after this **SR 199** made me do even more. I was in charge of the bathtubs. There were about five or six baths and they were never clean enough because she wouldn't let me use Ajax; she would only let me use carbolic soap. One of the older girls gave me Ajax once and I had the baths sparkling but then I got whacked by **SR 199** for using Ajax. I also had to clean everybody's shoes and this cubby hole where they kept brooms and things. I was scared of the cubby hole because it was so small and dark. It got smaller the further you walked into it. It was really dark but I had to clean it every day. I was only seven or eight years old. **SR 199** was very cold and I felt much neglected in the home.

she noticed Sores from scratching all the time cm  
 cm on my head & took care of them PRIVATE the best she could.  
 cm

the fireplace. I remember my teeth were falling out at the time and she made me believe in the tooth fairy. She lived in a beautiful cottage with billy goats and sheep and I got to spend the whole summer there. I can't remember the woman's name – I used to call her 'granny'. It was the best summer of my life to this day. It was like heaven but going back to the home was horrible.

14. My grandfather used to visit me in the home a lot. I remember him being in the waiting room and I would do cartwheels to get his attention. I would hustle him for money and leave the visiting room with a few pennies in my pocket which I'd show off to the other kids the next day in school. I would try to act like an outsider instead of a home girl. You could always tell the girls from the home as we all wore the same sort of clothes. My grandfather sexually abused me in Nazareth House but I kept it a secret or I wouldn't have got the pennies. He would get me to put my knickers down and he wanted me to touch his penis. The nuns weren't physically there when it happened but it was under their supervision. My granny used to visit me as well. I loved my granny and I never told her anything about what my grandfather was doing. My mum's sister [REDACTED] took me to C & A to see Santa Claus once. The nuns put a dirty old jumper on me and when I look at the picture now I think they could have put a clean jumper on me.

15. My mother was living in America the entire time I was in Nazareth House. It was the only home I knew for the first twelve years of my life. My mother married an American man and he was supporting me financially while I was in the home. It was her dream for me to go to America and have the whole family together. I later learned that I was supposed to leave Nazareth House when I was about four but then something didn't work out with the paperwork so the nuns kept me for another eight years.

16. There was a boy in the home called [REDACTED] HIA 368 who I fancied. He was in [REDACTED] SR 2 group and we went into the bathroom together. We were in the last bathtub and he hurt me but I pushed him off before he went any deeper. He was an altar boy. I wouldn't call what happened rape as it was sort of sensual and I was as curious as he was but we shouldn't have been left

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unsupervised. I was only nine or ten years old at the time and [REDACTED] HIA 368 was about twelve or thirteen. He had more control and I knew it wasn't right.

17. When I was about twelve years old, I was told I had a visitor. It turned out to be some woman I had never met claiming to be my mother. I walked into the visiting room and she was sitting there in a pink coat. I didn't walk over to her or give her a hug or anything like that. I was only interested in the bag she had in her hand because I knew there were sweets in it and that's all I wanted. She sat me down and said she was going to take me to America. That was the only time I had a good feeling since staying with the old woman. I just said "you're my mum" and she gave me the bag of sweets.

18. I saw my mother about five times after that with my granny. I had to go and get my passport photos taken and go to the doctor and things like that. I left Nazareth House on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1974 when I was twelve years old. I went to live in New Jersey with my mother and her husband but I brought all the negativity to America with me. I stuffed it all down until I spoke to the Inquiry. It felt good talking about it after all those years.

#### Life after care

19. My mother and I didn't get along well. She used to say to me "what did they teach you in that school at all, they didn't teach you a thing did they, why don't you shut your legs and sit like a lady?" I only knew her for a year and a half and she was always calling me a cheeky thing. She died of cancer then and I stayed living with her husband, my stepdad for one year. He and I didn't get along either and one day he just said to me "who do you think paid for you through that school – I did and you're not even my daughter". That was crushing.

20. My stepdad didn't want me so I moved in with his brother and then I went to live with my aunt [REDACTED] who was my mother's sister. I stayed with her for a couple of years but then I got suspended and quit school and she didn't want me anymore. When I was seventeen I got my own place and got a job



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he stayed for about six months. [REDACTED] wasn't taken into care because he would have been about eighteen. He went to live with his paternal granny.

4. The intention was that I would be put into Nazareth Lodge, but apparently I refused to leave [HIA 175] so agreement was reached that I would stay in Nazareth House.
5. I was in the same group as [HIA 175] I slept with the rest of the girls in the dormitory. I would have wet the bed a lot. Sometimes I would wake up with the nun hitting me because she knew I had wet the bed. I was made to stand out in the hallway with a wet sheet over my head. If she could, [HIA 175] would try to hide the sheets and change them before the nuns found out that I had wet the bed.
6. I was made to bath with the older girls because there were no separate facilities for boys. We were all put in the same bath at the same time. The nuns used to put a bowl over my head to cut my hair.
7. I remember that I never liked butter, probably because we didn't have butter when I lived with my mother and I wasn't used to it. They would plaster the food with it. I hated vegetables because we were forced to eat them. We weren't allowed to leave the table until we had finished everything that was in front of us.
8. The nuns gave us hidings for nothing. There are very few good memories that I have of my time in Nazareth House. I don't remember going to school.
9. Some of the older girls used to sexually abuse me. This would have taken place when I was aged between eight and eleven years, and they would have been in their mid teens. They made me climb up their nightdress and touch them intimately. It happened in the dormitory, and there would have been a few girls present at the time.
10. Somebody from Social Services would take us out to buy clothes and whatever else we needed, but as soon as we went back into the home, the

SNB 503 will say as follows:

This statement is provided on behalf of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in response to the Rule 9 Request dated 24 March 2015 which requires the Department to address questions posed by the HIAI regarding complaints made in relation to Nazareth Lodge children's home.

## Introduction

- 1 The intention of this statement is to address issues raised by the HIAI in relation to complaints received by the Department during the period 1984 to 1995. The statement also provides to the HIAI, information that has recently come to light following further Departmental inquiry into the historical role of the former Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the former Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) in relation to the inspection of children's homes. The Department believes that the latter will be of contextual significance to the HIAI in its consideration of the changing pattern of inspection within the period 1922-1995 with which it is concerned.
- 2 With regard to the current Module under consideration, other than fleeting references to the closure of Nazareth House in 1984 in the Nazareth Lodge Departmental files<sup>1</sup> and in its evidence to the Hughes Inquiry, visits to Nazareth House by a Social Work Advisor<sup>2</sup>, the Department has been unable to locate any further Departmental information related to the Nazareth House home. The home closed in 1984 and it seems most likely that any files held on this home would have been destroyed in accordance with the Department's disposal of records schedules.
- 3 References have however been found in the documentation received from the HIAI to inspections by the Ministry of Home Affairs children's inspectors in 1953; 1964; 1965 and 1966<sup>3</sup>, and in 1953<sup>4</sup>, a visit by a party of ten 'Stormont' officials, which included a Children's Inspector. A letter sent to Nazareth House following the visit, expressed appreciation of the work carried out so unselfishly by the Sisters and commented on the "happy, healthy appearance of the children"
- 4 The Departmental files containing information and inspection reports on Nazareth Lodge home have been submitted to the HIAI. The documentation in these files broadly falls into the categories of monitoring and inspection functions and correspondence related to concerns about the welfare of specific children.

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<sup>1</sup> Annexes A and B

<sup>2</sup> SNB Reference to be located

<sup>3</sup> SNB: 10308 (1953); 10327 (1964); 10335 (1965); 10344 (1966)

<sup>4</sup> 10309 (1953) ten visitors from Stormont came to visit the House. Mr Jackson, Miss McAleese, K Forrest and Miss Houston among them



+  
J. W. J.

1953.

31<sup>st</sup> March. [REDACTED] retired from  
Principalship of School. [REDACTED] became  
Principal. [REDACTED] replaced Sister  
[REDACTED] as Assistant.

15<sup>th</sup> April. "Quick-Service Store" opened in  
Schoolroom. Brisk trade in confectionery,  
hair decorations, novelties, etc.

18<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May. School camp at Glenariff. Long  
walks in country, hill climbing, visits  
to village of Waterfoot & Loughendun.  
Visit from H. W. J. Mr. Shaw. Journey out  
to Glenariff via Ballymena, Rathfriland &  
Home via Carnalough, Lorne.

June. Inspection of Home by Ministry  
of Home Affairs.

16<sup>th</sup> July: Annual trip. This year to Tyrrells

19<sup>th</sup> July: Summer Holidays began. Walks,  
outings, picnic at Cane Hill.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. School re-opened.

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. Children's Annual Retreat conducted  
by Rev. Fr. Bannigan.



1964

6th January. - Children's' party, entertainment provided, viz. Uncle Jack the magician was an unexpected item on the programme. Mr Beaumont was his assistant. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. Presents from mother included slippers, hankies, money sweets etc. a very delightful parcel.

6th January. 'Scandal at Scourie' Film  
Children enjoyed it very much. It was a story of a catholic orphaned girl adopted into a Protestant family after a fire at the convent.

19th January: Party and entertainment provided by the G. A. A. The Maadens School of dancers performed. The troupe of 16 obtained world champion title at the Festival of Scotland. A band was engaged but arrived too late, the gap was filled by two accordion players all went well.

2nd February. Film 'Little Kelly Kelly' on the occasion of Sister Magdalen's Diamond Jubilee.

16th March. Film 'Our Lady of Gauldeloupe'  
A spanish production with the English translation projected on the screen. Very good.

19th March. Miss Hill Home Office made her annual visit. Was favourably impressed.



17th January. The Children's Party. Pantomime was invited to perform 'The Lost Princess' from St Paul's Parish. A great display of talent. Singers were very gifted, interesting side line, they do not enjoy listening to the pop songs of to-day. It is refreshing to find some unspoilt youth standing aside from the mass mania of the Beatle Fans.

3rd February. Children were invited to the Pantomime at the Opera House. 'Cinderella'.

14th March. Film "Lili"  
17th " " " 'Interrupted Melody'  
19th " " 'Doctor in the House'.

Fourteen children are now six months in the British Junior Red Cross, joining with others all over the world to help the sick and the suffering. The Belfast Branch is under the direction of David H. Elliott. The children have been successful in their first examination 'First Aid'. They are now engaged in making up First Aid Kits to be sent all over the world. The children go out to the Junior Red Cross. It is not an interval arrangement.

3rd March. Report of Annual Inspection by Mrs MacWilliam Senior Inspector.



REPORT OF ANNUAL INSPECTION BY  
MR. MACMILLAN. SENIOR INSPECTOR.

The work of the school proceeds quietly and effectively under the guidance of the Principal who carries out all her duties with conscientious attention to detail.

She has the wholehearted co-operation of a staff of three teachers, one of whom encourages and instructs an E.S.N. class sympathetically and successfully.

The pupils who receive an excellent training are polite, responsive and for the most part well-informed.

The educative decoration of the classrooms, the material and equipment provided in the youngest class and the general efficiency of the teaching in all four classrooms are responsible for the high attainment of the senior girls both in the basic subjects and in poetry, Singing and Drama.

The increasing numbers on roll, if maintained, should warrant the appointment of an additional assistant under the forthcoming regulations governing the staffing of primary schools.

Ministry of Education, Belfast

18th April - Easter Sunday Film 'Minder' she said  
an Agatha Christie's novel.  
- Low Sunday Film 'The Camellias'.

9th May. - Children in the J. R. Cross went to  
a parade at Balmoral.  
- Film "Tom Sawyer".

" Her Children lost the cup this year, for the  
set dance. Got second place and were given  
Silver medals.

22nd May. Annual Inspection of the Home Office.



26th December - House Film 'The Glass Slipper'.  
Good Shepherd's Film 'The Music Man'.

28th December - Childrens party night. Uncle Jack the magician entertained them.

30th December - The Old Peoples party - children helped to entertain with Song, dance & violins - ceili band & champion dances included.

1966 2nd Jan - Sunday - The Reunion Party over one hundred past pupils attended. Fr Horgan gave them a conference. Dance later in the hall and the band 'Purple Hearts' rendered the music.

5th January - Children were invited to the 'Fair Lady' in the Grand Opera House.

17th January - St Anne's dormitory completed partitions painted - sitting room & lounge, chairs lockers etc. Looks very well, compact and comfortable. The children are very proud of it.

18th January - Children were invited to pantomime 'Aladdin' in the Youth's Club, King George VI Hall.

19th January - Annual visit from Home Office. Miss Hill was very satisfied.



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10. We were not allowed to cry for anyone or to be upset. I will never forget the day that Kennedy died. I was ten years of age. I did not know who he was. The nuns kept a picture of him up. The reason I remember this so much is because it was then I realised the nuns were capable of emotion. All the nuns were coming and going. I had never seen the like of it before. One of the girls made up a story and said the nuns were all being taken out and whipped. She was just winding us all up. The next thing we were all brought into the room where the TV was kept. Kennedy had been shot and we were all watching the small black and white TV. One of the nuns was hugging the TV. Tears were streaming down their faces. I always remember the girl who asked me for sweets on my first day, she was a lot older than me and she was a bit backward. It wasn't funny like but she put her hand up and said "Sister I am awful sorry your daddy got shot". I will never forget the beating that girl got because she had said something out of innocence. You were not allowed to cry for someone who belonged to you, somebody you loved and they were.
11. When visitors came to the home we were told the night before that people would be here and that we should all be nice. I am not sure if they were visitors or inspectors, or what they were called. We were told to be up and to be on our best behaviour before any such visit. The nuns were the ones who were on their best behaviour on these occasions. When these visits took place you would see things coming out that we have never seen, such as books and dolls. We were never allowed to play with these toys. If any visitor had inspected any of the toys they would have noticed that they had not been played with and that the children just looked at them as if they were something out of space.
12. Different charities would have sent loads of stuff to the Home for us, but we did not see any of it, only when visitors were at the Home and then it was put away again. I wondered why they would hide stuff away in cupboards for years and years and how horrible they could be. I tried to make excuses for their behaviour and I thought that maybe their lives were so bad that they knew no other way. I then wondered how they could be so crafty like leaving out toys and putting on their best behaviour so I can't really have that much sympathy for them.

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18/12/71

MINUTES OF DIVISIONAL GROUP MEETING AT WEST DIVISION HELD ON 14.6.71

PRESENT: Messrs. Bunting, Herron, Shannon, Hunter, Todd, Mrs. Hall,  
Mrs. Scott, Mrs. McMahon, Miss McKee, Miss Hardoch and Mrs. Whiting

APOLOGIES: Miss Nicholl (Illness)

1. Nazareth House - Dissatisfaction with their procedures regarding children in our care placed with them. Cases had been documented and forwarded to Mr. Moore regarding this but so far, no action appears to have been taken. Suggestion that a meeting be convened with **DL 298** to try to resolve the problems and if necessary, the Bishop be approached regarding them.

2. Clarification regarding responsibility in the event of accidents happening to Social Workers.

- (a) responsibility and procedure if Social Worker is attacked and injured in the home of a client.
- (b) responsibility when Duty Authorised Officer is carrying out Formal Admission and may be at risk.
- (c) responsibility when Social Worker is on the premises of another agency and is injured.

It was felt that these problems should be discussed at Senior Officers' level.

3. Children in Training School - It was accepted that Social Work and after care of children in Training School was the responsibility of the Managers of the Training School. It was felt that while it would be ideal to take this on, it was not feasible at present. However, this did not preclude our dealing with children in Training School where we were already working with the family. C.O.  
+  
C.W.O.

4. Children in care - Long term fostering - This is in the process of being dealt with at Divisional level.

5. Proposal for Area Team - There were quite a few pros and cons in this proposal and it was felt that it would be worthwhile to discuss it at Senior Officer level. It might be feasible to run a pilot scheme.

6. Overtime - At present overtime is recorded in the "Signing In Book". It was felt that we should have a separate Overtime Book and this was agreed to.

7. Day Centre for Men - Concern was expressed at lack of men attending Centres. It was felt that there should be a Day Centre established for men with a male warden looking after it.

8. Annual Clothing Allowance for excessive wear and tear on clothing and shoes. - It was felt that there was a need for this, particularly for those staff who were without cars. It was thought that this should be considered at Senior Officers' level.

9. Glenbank Centre - Hairdressing and craft instruction - It was felt that at present our hairdresser, Mrs. Dickson, had perhaps too much to cope with and that the situation should be reviewed to see if additional help was required. - Craft instruction at the Centre would not be possible at present as staff were fully committed. There was quite a long discussion on Centres generally and their function. It was felt that this was a topic which warranted discussion throughout the Department.

10. Use of Board in General Office - Staff are to be reminded that it is essential that they use the Board. A new system to replace the paper stickers is to be implemented.

11. Issue of Handicraft Stock - All stock to be issued between 10 - 11 a.m. each morning except in unforeseen circumstances.

12. Home Help finishing dates - Welfare Assistants to inform Home Helps if the occasion arises that finishing dates must be reported to the Home Help Office.



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worked in the kitchens peeling potatoes. We had to scrub the floors, and there were lots of areas and passageways, and a huge hall. The nun would stand at the far end of the hallway to inspect it and if it wasn't done right, we were hit. We were slapped or grabbed by the hair at the back of the neck which was so painful. They would lift us up by the hair and pull us up from the nape of the neck until we were standing on our tip toes. They would intentionally pinch us under our arms, where the marks wouldn't be seen. I believe that all of the nuns would have done this.

10. From about the age of eleven years, we worked hard in the laundries, mainly at the weekends. We did the washing for the entire convent, including the old people's home. If they were soiled we had to stand over the sink scrubbing them on the washer boards, before they went into a big industrial machine, and then into the huge industrial pressers. I remember I had to stand on a stool so that I could reach the sink and use the washboards. My fingers would be raw, from rubbing them on the boards, and from the carbolic soap. There were two ladies who worked in the laundry, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were quite elderly and I believe they may have been brought up in the convent themselves. [REDACTED] had a stick which she would hit us with if we weren't doing the washing properly. [REDACTED] was a terrifying lady, but that was all she knew. She also worked in the sewing room. She hit us as well and we would be terrified if she caught us doing anything, because she was always threatening to tell the nuns on us.

11. The whole environment of the home and the school was fear. To my mind, if we were ever caught doing something, it would only have been something minor. The punishment seemed unnecessary for some things. It was just a way of frightening us and keeping us down. [REDACTED] SR 31 [REDACTED] had a particular room upstairs where we were brought to if the nuns were going to cane us. If we back-chatted, tutted or showed an expression that they didn't like, they would take us upstairs, and say that they would beat the stubborn streak out of us. We never used foul language and we weren't rude children, but the nuns saw it as us standing up for ourselves so they would make an example of us. On one occasion [REDACTED] SR 31 [REDACTED] was hitting me across both hands with

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9. My sister was in Primary Five and I just sat and cuddled her all the time. She didn't learn and I didn't learn. I don't recall ever lifting a pencil. I always felt a sense of rejection be it in the home or in the school.
10. On the way to and from school we had to pass the Nursery. My wee brother was in the Nursery and I pined for him. I wanted to see him but we were never allowed to be together. I could see him playing outside and wanted to be near him. I would have done anything to get out of P1.
11. The nuns did not have any child care skills or understanding of children. They did not know how to show us love or comfort us. I found out in later years that they were being paid to care for us. I am still angry with Social Services as it was their duty to make sure our physical, emotional and educational needs were being met by the Sisters of Nazareth but they didn't do this.
12. The care worker in charge of my group in Nazareth Lodge was called **NL 155** I don't know how she ever came to work with children. I can only describe her as an animal who should never have been allowed to work with children. We were petrified of her. I don't recall playing very much in the home. We just sat and watched TV afraid to move from our chairs. I always felt frightened and to this day I am still frightened of authority.
13. **NL 155** was a very lazy woman. I recall an occasion when a fruit man came into the home. He had a big box of fruit and we all jumped up to greet him. She was ever so nice to him and when he left she made us get down and polish the floors before we would get any of the fruit. She said to us, "You are not getting any fruit until you polish that floor."
14. The routine in the home was very strict. We were like robots. We were afraid to speak and we were told where to sit and what to do. We had to make our beds and stand until they were inspected. I remember being sick all the time and nobody comforting me. I always felt nervous and anxious and as a result I soiled myself a lot. I have suffered with IBS all of my life and I believe it is as a result of the conditions in the home.



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House. I distinctly remember a woman from the Welfare and a priest being at our house that day. Looking back, I think they had a big influence on the decision to put us in Nazareth House. My father wasn't coping. The youngest [REDACTED] was only three months old and I was seven and a half.

Nazareth House, Belfast (27<sup>th</sup> July 1956 – 24<sup>th</sup> October 1965)

5. When we went into Nazareth House, I remember the nun taking our particulars and my dad got my birthday wrong. He said it was 12<sup>th</sup> December and it was recorded as that until I had to get my birth certificate when I was sitting my O Levels. That first day NHB 72 and I went in, all the other children crowded around us in the playground. I felt utterly confused and overwhelmed. That night it really sank in. NHB 72 was crying a lot so the nuns pushed our two beds together. After a night or two though one of the nuns came along and smacked NHB 72 and said that was enough. We were put into the big dormitory then and they separated us. The nuns put NHB 72 in the farthest corner of the dormitory. I was in the first row and she was in the fourth row; we couldn't have been further apart. NHB 72 was hit by the nuns for crying for me and I used to sneak up to her and tell her stories to reassure her.
6. Nazareth House was a bleak, dark place. I suffered physical and mental abuse on a daily basis during the nine years I was kept there. This amounted to thousands of incidents. I remember I used to just lie in bed and think this is a nightmare. I thought that someday my daddy is going to come and take us out. I wrote letters to him, I always remembered our home address. I gave them to the nuns but obviously they were never sent. I later received letters from my father but they were always open when I got them. He used to say he was going to get a house in Lurgan and take us all out of the home. I believed this until I was about fourteen. We had to give our replies to the nuns to read before sending. This ensured we were not retelling any of the abuse we were suffering.
7. It was tough knowing you had family and wondering where they were, you were never told. I had been taken away from a stable family home which was

PRIVATE

7. Nazareth House was divided into three groups – Sacred Heart, Our Lady's and St. Anne's. I was in Our Lady's group and **SR 31** was in charge. **SR 116** and **SR 134** were in charge of the other two groups.
8. I have no good memories of my time in Nazareth House, only bad ones.
9. I went to primary school onsite in Nazareth House and I remember the beatings I got there. It was the same three nuns who taught there – **SR 31**, **SR 116** and **SR 134**. Then I went to St. Monica's secondary school on the Ravenhill Road which was ok. **SR 192** was the principal. I made some friends there but they used to have a party just for the girls from Nazareth House and all the other girls would look at us like we were different.
10. The food in Nazareth House wasn't very good but you didn't go hungry. We got fries but they were really greasy and the porridge was thick with a skin on top of it. If you didn't eat the food, the nuns would beat you.
11. The clothes were alright. They used to put aprons on us over our clothes to keep our clothes clean and if you ripped your apron you would have gotten smacked. **SR 122** did all the sewing in Nazareth House and every week you got your apron changed. If **SR 122** saw a rip in your apron, she would hit you over the head. We changed our vest and underwear once a week.
12. We slept in big dormitories in Nazareth House when we were little. There were about twenty or thirty girls in each dormitory. In the older girls' section there were smaller rooms with four beds in each room. The beds were iron framed and they were comfortable and warm enough.
13. A typical day in Nazareth House was you got up when the nuns rang the bell, you'd kneel down at the bed and say your morning prayers and then go down and get washed. The nuns made us strip off and they stood and watched us as we washed ourselves at the sinks in the bathroom. It made me feel



10/2

40

A

Q Just read out the entries in relation to that that were made at that time.

A On Thursday 30 September 76: "children were up at half past seven for breakfast and then school, and the children took the news of Sister Aloysia's leaving very badly." Then again: "Wednesday 6th: usual day except the children are all very depressed as [REDACTED] leaves tomorrow".

B

Q As far as that diary is concerned, you have made it available. Are there entries relating to matters on a daily basis in it?

A Yes.

Q Was it purely fortuitous that it happened to have been preserved?

A Yes, because we always did keep a daily logbook.

C

Q As far as the home is concerned, in relation to your particular relationship with the staff, you read the SWAG report, where the suggestion is made quite positively that as far as the staff are concerned they felt that they were not being consulted adequately in relation to their positions, and that the sisters really were - as I think [REDACTED] put it - a bit autocratic in relation to the running of the home, and did not take their views into account to the extent that they should. What would your observations be in relation to that?

D

A I would have said that it was a little unfair criticism, really; that we have always tried to have a good relationship with the staff. We realise that we can do nothing for the children unless there is good relationship between the house parents and the assistant house parents, and if there is any kind of friction or anything the children will be the very first ones to see it. We have always endeavoured to have this good relationship. The only thing that comes to mind is that at the time of the SWAG group inspection perhaps morale was a little low because two members of staff had come about an increase in wages, and we had not been able to give this because our per capita was very low at the time. Then we did increase the wages as soon as we got an increase in per capita, so I think the morale was a little low then and there was perhaps a little unfair criticism.

E

Q So far as staff were concerned, in relation to the amount of money that you had available, would it really be unfair to put it that you were always chasing the devil by the tail to try and get enough money to run the thing in any sort of adequate way?

F

A Yes, because when I came there we were quite a big sum of money in the red, but eventually the Board were very considerate and they gave grants and helped us out that first year to get rid of this debt that we had.

G

Q The sisters were not living on the fat of the land at any stage themselves to the disadvantage of the other staff, were they?

A No. I mean, whatever was for the staff and children it was the same for the sisters, really, in the house.

Q In this area of children going out to stay with families and children going out to stay for weekends or at Christmas, that was something that over the last ten or more years has been encouraged by the Board and by everybody. Would that be correct?

H

A Yes, that is correct.