

14. On 20 May 1994 **NHB 137** documents interviewing **NL 164** again. Reports were also received from relevant Nazareth Lodge staff, being **SR 18** and **NL 221**. The report written of this discussion with **NL 164** (dated 23 May 1994) records that **NL 164** stated he did not wish to proceed with his complaint. Mr **NHB 137** considered that he did not present as being forced into a situation where he had to retract the complaint. SNB 49420
15. No clear outcome or further liaison with more senior staff on this particular issue is readily apparent from the files now available.
16. The next significant flow of information regarding **SR 18** and this particular young person commenced on 8 September 1994, by a telephone call to **NHB 137** from **NL 171**, a member of staff at Nazareth Lodge. She outlined to **NHB 137** that an incident involving **NL 164** had occurred while on holiday in Donegal during which he had been assaulted by other young people. It was alleged that **SR 18** was aware of this assault. A handwritten report was subsequently prepared by **NL 171** in relation to this matter. It was available on **NL 164**'s file, stamped received 22 September 1994. Within that record it is noted that **NL 164** was unhappy about the outcome of a previous complaint, noting he had retracted it after speaking with his social worker. This latter issue does not appear to have been particularly highlighted or followed up. SNB 49590
SNB 49487
17. On 13 September 1994 further information was shared with Mr **NHB 137** by **NL 170**, a member of staff at Nazareth Lodge. On this occasion Mr McShane was told that there had been incidents of **NL 164** being locked in the kitchen by **SR 18**. **NL 170** also outlined that she had been told not to share the information with social services by senior staff in Nazareth. SNB 49492
18. On 14 September 1994 **NHB 137** attended in person at Nazareth Lodge. He documented that when he enquired with **NL 164** about the matters raised, the young person said there was nothing to this and did not wish to make any complaint. **NL 170** was recorded by **NHB 137** as not willing or able to speak about the issues. SNB 49493
SNB 49494
19. **NHB 137**, however, proceeded to pass the information on in writing to Mr Vincent O'Rourke, Assistant Principal Social Worker on 16 September 1994. In that letter **NHB 137** detailed the nature of the allegation that **NL 164** was locked in a kitchen, and also raised concern about the withholding of information from social services staff by Nazareth Lodge. **NHB 137** provided further reports to Mr O'Rourke on 20 September 1994. SNB 49632
SNB 49884
20. On 27 September 1994 Mr O'Rourke responded to **NHB 137** directing a number of steps to be taken. SNB 49622

21. I have been unable to discern from the file whether those steps were taken. It is documented that on 6 October 1994 **NHB 137** asked to see the Nazareth Lodge file in relation to **NL 164** and, also advised that he would be contacting **SR 18** and **SR 52** to interview them regarding complaints concerning Samuel. Records of these steps being followed through are not however contained on the files available to me. Indeed from this date until March 1995 nothing of relevance to these complaints is identified on the file, and no reference to them is made at the Progress Review on 13 March 1995. It is however noted at that meeting that **SR 18** reported her view that **NL 164**'s relationship with herself had improved. SNB 49495
SNB 49867
22. A contact card was then received from **NL 164** on 5 June 1995 (having been redirected as it was originally sent to the wrong Trust in error). This was initially received into C&BCHSST by Tony Rodgers, Manager, Family & Child Care Services who had been notified by telephone to expect it by his colleague in South & East Belfast Health & Social Services Trust ("S&EBHSST"). This must have been shared with **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker as a conversation is documented between her and Mr **NHB 137** on 7 June 1995 in which she asked **NHB 137** to investigate the matter. She also asked him to report back, first verbally and then in writing. Ms Ann Hamill, Senior Social Worker, was also involved in these discussions on 8 June 1995. At this point, there would not have been an understanding of what any current complaint related to. SNB 49489
SNB 49440
SNB 49619
23. On 8 June 1995 **NHB 137** visited **NL 164** and spoke to him alone. **NL 164** indicated that he had now resolved the difficulties and does not wish to make a complaint. SNB 49441
24. A further visit was undertaken to **NL 164** on 4 August 1995 after an indication that he wished to make a complaint. It appears he changed his mind before **NHB 137** arrived. During this visit **NL 164** indicated he had sent the earlier contact card in temper. Mr **NHB 137** up-dated **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker, on 15 December 1995. SNB 49447
25. On 6 November 1995 **NL 170**, a member of staff at Nazareth Lodge spoke to Judith Chaddock, Social Services Inspectorate. She provided information that detailed a number of issues about the care and treatment of children, including **NL 164**, to Ms Chaddock. **NHB 137** also noted in a record on 10 November 1995 that **NL 164** reported he was going to "speak with DHSS Inspectorate in Unit today". SNB 49611
SNB 110117
26. **NL 164**'s file contains a copy of a letter dated 11 December 1994 from the Social Services Inspectorate to Mother Regional, Dublin, in relation to the matters alleged. Within the body of that letter Ms Chaddock indicates that she had advised the Trusts of the SNB 49442

information.

27. On 13 December 1995 contact was made by C&BCHSST with Nazareth Lodge (having received correspondence on 12 December 1995) to ascertain the procedure for dealing with the complaint. Advice was given to contact David Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, N&WBHSST who was indicated to be "co-ordinating a strategy response". SNB 49453
28. From this point there was liaison between different Trusts in different Board areas and I propose to set out those details together below. Throughout the time period above, being May 1994 to 13 December 1995 there is no record of the information known regarding **NL 164** being passed within C&BHSST above the level of Assistant Principal Social Worker or to the Southern Board, save in respect of the Contact Card (June 1995), the existence of which was known to Mr Rodgers, Manager, Family and Child Care.
- NL 168**
29. **NL 168** was the responsibility of N&WBHSST. This was the same Trust as was responsible as **NL 260**. As set out below concerns about **SR 18** and her running of her Unit were first of serious concern in the context of **NL 168** in November 1995. There is no indication on the file that staff involved in these issues were aware of the events in 1993 noted by **NL 260**'s social worker.
30. In advance of November, there was an incident on 20 August 1995 when **NL 168** made a complaint against another member of staff, **NL 227**. Counter complaints were in fact made and the police were involved. **NL 168**'s social worker, **NL 271** met with her on 22 August 1995 and information was passed to the Senior Social Worker the same day. SNB 49376
SNB 49378
31. Mr Tommy Boyle, Assistant Principal Social Worker, was advised and notified John Stratton, Principal Social Worker, on 25 September 1995. Mr Boyle confirmed that he had held a strategy meeting with **SR 148** on 22 September 1995 following which it was understood a written report from Nazareth Lodge's Management Committee would be provided by 27 September 1995. Mr John Stratton, Principal Social Worker, updated Ms Judy Kennedy, Programme Manager on 26 September 1995. SNB 49380
SNB 49377
SNB 49381
32. There are no further records in relation to this until later in the year. I note it is recorded that **NL 168**'s mother had engaged legal advice, which was stated to be not to comply with the complaint's procedure.
33. It appears that a complaint report was received on this matter, but the Trust had reservations in relation to same. On 23 January 1996 Mr Boyle, Assistant Principal Social Worker, wrote to Mr David SNB 49398

Gilliland, Principal Social Worker to confirm he had met with [REDACTED] SR 148 on 22 January 1996. He noted that an independent investigator nominated by the Trust was the best way to proceed. Mr Gilliland advised Ms Judy Kennedy, Programme Manager, of this position on 1 February 1996. No records in relation to this proposed independent investigation have been seen.

SNB 49400

34. On 27 November 1995 [REDACTED] NL 271, Social Worker, interviewed [REDACTED] NL 168, who confirmed that she had made a complaint to the Social Services Inspectorate regarding the treatment and attitude of [REDACTED] SR 18 towards children/young people in the unit. [REDACTED] NL 168 is recorded as being satisfied that the matter was being dealt with by the Inspectorate. [REDACTED] NL 271 highlighted to her that there may also be an obligation on social services management to investigate the complaints independent of the inspectorate.

SNB 49386 –
SNB 49387

35. This information was conveyed to Joyce French, Senior Social Worker, and she wrote to [REDACTED] SR 148, Head of Home, Nazareth Lodge on 30 November 1995. On 1 December 1995 David Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, met with [REDACTED] SR 148 and hand-delivered a copy of information to her.

SNB 49389

SNB 49391

36. From this point there was liaison between the different Trusts, in different Board areas, which is detailed below.

Complaints to Social Services Inspectorate

37. As noted above these complaints became known at Trust level during November 1995 in North & West Belfast Health & Social Services Trust. The first reference to Craigavon & Banbridge Community Health & Social Services Trust receiving correspondence is 12 December 1995.

38. From [REDACTED] NL 168's file it is clear that on 27 November 1995 Eamon McCotter, Assistant Principal Social Worker, S&EBHSST met with [REDACTED] SR 148 after a former staff member of Nazareth Lodge, [REDACTED] NL 170, told a social worker in the adolescent team (unnamed) that she had made a complaint to the Social Work Inspector visiting Nazareth Lodge regarding [REDACTED] SR 18. This was because children that were the responsibility of that Trust, [REDACTED] NL 173 and [REDACTED] NL 266, were also named in the complaints. This meant that three Trusts across both the Eastern and Southern Boards had children to which the information was relevant in their care.

SNB 49388

39. While it appears each Trust was following the matter in relation to their child, there were also co-ordinated approaches.

40. On 1 December 1995, Mr Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, N&WBHSST met with [REDACTED] NL 148 as noted above. He up-dated the responsible fieldwork social worker for [REDACTED] NL 168, [REDACTED] NL 271, by memo on the same day which indicates he had also liaised with Pat Kinder (Management Committee, Nazareth Lodge) and John

SNB 49391

Veitch within S&EBHSST who were responsible for the **NL 266**
NL 266. It was not clear that liaison started immediately with
 C&BHSST, who were advised to contact Mr Gilliland by Nazareth
 Lodge on 13 December 1995. **NL 164**'s file contains a letter **SNB 49458**
 from Mr Gilliland to **NL 222** dated 19 December 1995
 providing relevant documentation.

41. On 19 December 1995 Mr Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, again wrote to **SR 148** in Nazareth Lodge outlining allegations by **NL 168**. On the same date he updated Ms J Kennedy, Programme Manager, N&WBHSST, enclosing documentation and referring to "negotiations" over the last two weeks involving himself, Mr Veith (S&EBHSST), **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker (C&BCHSST) and Mr Kinder (Nazareth Lodge Management Committee). He outlined that as a result Nazareth Lodge Management Committee will set up an inquiry team, and noted that **SR 18** had voluntarily taken a leave of absence from Nazareth Lodge. **SNB 49393 – SNB 49395 SNB 49396**
42. **NL 164**'s file contains an undated Strategy Report completed by C&BCHSST, which outlines the strategy as noted in Mr Gilliland's memo. This Strategy Report was sent by Ms **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker to Mr Louis Boyle, Director of Child Care, C&BCHSST on 20 December 1995. **SNB 49453 SNB 49542**
43. On 9 January 1996 **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker, C&BCHSST, wrote to Mr Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, N&WBHSST referring to their previous meeting and noting that no up-date has yet been received from Mr Kinder, Management Committee. She sought an up-date in relation to the investigative team. **SNB 49459**
44. On 10 January 1996, within N&WBHSST, Ms Judy Kennedy, Programme Manager, Family and Child Care provided documentation to **NL 219**, Director of Operations to advise him of the situation. In her covering memo she noted "Mr Bunting does know about the matter. Mr Veitch from South & East Belfast HSST contacted him and subsequently Mr Gilliland spoke to him. Mr Bunting is in agreement with the approach we are taking." It is therefore clear that the Eastern Board had knowledge of the situation. **SNB 49397**
45. On 17 January 1996 Mr Kinder wrote to **NL 222** (C&BCHSST) detailing the names of those identified to investigate the complaints. He noted that by this date the panel had already met and intended to report as quickly as possible, noting an expectation that this would be within a few weeks. He copied this correspondence to other Trusts involved, being N&WBHSST and S&EBHSST. It appears however that **NL 222** contacted Mr Gilliland by telephone on 23 January 1996 as she had not yet received this letter. **SNB 49460 SNB 49462**

46. On 7 February 1996 Mrs Twaddle, Senior Administrative Assistant to **NL 219**, Director of Operations, N&WBHSST wrote to Ms Kennedy, Programme Manager to request confirmation of whether the complaints made to SSI had been satisfactorily resolved. SNB 49399
47. On 27 February 1996 **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker (C&BCHSST) spoke directly with Mr Alan Chard (who had been appointed as the independent member of the panel to investigate the complaints) who noted an interim report had been concluded. The record indicates "it would appear that the issue re: **NL 164** has been overlooked and according to Alan Chard had not been brought to his attention". It was agreed that **NHB 137**, Social Worker, would meet with **NL 164** in relation to the complaints and forward a report to Mr Chard by 4 March 1996. **NHB 137** met with **NL 164** for this purpose on 28 February 1996 and correspondence arising from same, and detailing Samuel's complaints was provided to Mr Chard (copy to **NL 222**) on 1 March 1996. SNB 49463
SNB 49464 –
SNB 49465
48. On 4 March 1996 a Special Meeting of the Management Committee of Nazareth Lodge was convened. A sub-committee was reconvened on 11 March 1996 at which time it was agreed that the Trusts involved and the Department should be given copies of the minutes of the special meetings of 4 and 11 March 1996, and given a copy of the statement received from **SR 18**. SNB 49402
SNB 49406
49. On 25 March 1996 **NL 222**, Assistant Principal Social Worker (C&BHSST) wrote to Mr Chard seeking formal written communication regarding the outcome of the investigation. She noted that C&BCHSST had first become aware of this issue the week before Christmas 1995, the time lapse and described this as now "crucial". SNB 49471
50. On 3 April 1996 Mr Gilliland, Principal Social Worker, N&WBHSST met with Mr Kinder and **SR 148**. He was provided with the minutes of the Management Committee Meetings on 4 and 11 March 1996. He provided those to Ms J Kennedy, Programme Manager on 3 May 1996. SNB 49408
51. On 4 April 1996 Mr Chard responded to **NL 222** expressing his surprise that she had not already received information from either Nazareth Lodge or Mr Gilliland. He noted that the sub-committee reported on 4 March 1996. **NL 222** sent this correspondence to Mr Boyle, Director of Child Care, C&BCHSST on 26 April 1996 indicating that "it was on the back of this that David Gilliland had arranged to meet to discuss the outcome / feedback they had received". It is not clear when this meeting took place and no record of same has been seen. SNB 49472
SNB 49473

52. **NL 222** received the minutes of the management committee meetings of 4 March 1996 and forwarded same to Mr Boyle on 3 May 1996, noting they had been received from Mr Gilliland. She indicated that N&WBHSST were intending to pursue their own matters individually in respect of satisfying their own procedures. **SNB 49474 – SNB 49475**
53. On 29 April 1996 the three Trusts liaised. Mr Gilliland, N&WBHSST met with Mr Veitch, S&EBHSST, and **NL 222** C&BHSST. Records indicate that the respective Trusts agreed to individually progress matters and all took the view that the information currently available was less than adequate. **SNB 49408**
54. On 3 May 1996 Mr Gilliland requested formal feedback from the Management Committee. He requested a specific response to the allegations made by **NL 168** in respect of herself. A response was provided by Mr Kinder on 15 May 1996, which Mr Gilliland passed to Ms J Kennedy the same day. **SNB 49407**
SNB 49409
SNB 49410
55. On 15 May 1996 Mr Boyle, Director of Child Care, C&BCHSST wrote to Mr Kinder, Management Committee, Nazareth Lodge. He indicated knowledge of the outcome and required formal feedback from the Management Committee in relation to the outcome of the investigation in respect of **NL 164**. That correspondence was copied to **NL 222**. A response was received to this correspondence by letter dated 17 June 1996 from Mr Kinder. **Pg 59**
Complaints
SR 18
56. For S&EBHSST, Mr McCotter, Assistant Principal Social Worker wrote on 19 July 1996 to note that the minutes of the meetings on 4 and 11 March 1996 were only received in July 1996 upon his return from annual leave. **Pg 61**
Complaints
SR 18

7.0 Medical input to SSI inspections of children's homes

- 7.1 From the 1980s research in GB had indicated that the health care needs of children cared for had not been well served. I do not recall what specific action, if any, SSI incorporated into the inspection process to address this issue. Inspectors examined children's files and ensured that the health care needs of the children were always covered in statutory reviews and that children in residential homes had ready access to a General Practitioner, who was frequently their own doctor prior to their entering residential care.

The Medical Officer for Nazareth Lodge visited the home weekly.

8.0 The accommodation of two retired priests on the Nazareth Lodge site in flats adjacent to the children's home

- 8.1 In a letter of 23 June 1995, Mr Bunting informed me of the presence of two retired priests in accommodation at the rear of Nazareth Lodge Children's Home. (SNB 16660). He felt that this practice was unacceptable and that the matter should be considered in relation to the registration of the home by DHSS.
- 8.2 On 14 July 1995 I confirmed to Mr Bunting that the Department had not been aware that adults had been accommodated at the Nazareth Lodge site.(SNB 16659)
- 8.3 On 3 August 1995 I visited Nazareth Lodge and spoke with **SR 52**. She confirmed that two flats at the rear of the main building were used from time to time to accommodate two retired or convalescing priests.
- 8.4 The flats were self-contained, had a separated entrance, which was adjacent to the front of the main building; and this area was out-of-bounds to the children. There was a connecting corridor between the flats and the main building. This part of the main building was used only for administrative and conferencing purposes, but was "not generally used by the children".
- 8.5 There was a connecting staircase between the flats and the chapel, but this was not used by the children.
- 8.6 Children, care staff and adult residents of the flats would have attended mass at the same time. Children were always accompanied and supervised by care staff.
- 8.7 Prospective adult residents were police checked and the Bishop vouched as to their suitability.

8.8 In September 1995 I wrote to Mr Bunting clarifying the Department's view of the matter (SNB 16652) :

- I described the configuration of the site and functional relationship of the two flats and the children's home. The flats had a separate entrance and were self-contained. There was a connecting corridor between the flats and the part of the building used for administration and conferences, but "children did not generally use this corridor".
- The Down Lisburn Trust was considering with the Sisters of Nazareth how the home might be re-instated at an alternative location in the community.
- There was no evidence that the arrangement for accommodating adults adjacent to Nazareth Lodge had had an adverse impact on the children.
- Criminal records checks had been carried out on adult residents.
- DHSS had not issued specific guidance regarding the presence of adults in the same building as children, though the Department would generally deprecate this.
- The Department could not prescribe what activities may take place in premises adjacent to or adjoining a children's home.
- Where any activities are deemed prejudicial to the welfare of children, the administering authority would be expected to seek a remedy.
- Generally, even temporary arrangements for non-staff to reside in a children's home should be discouraged, and where this happens, the administering authority should ensure that such arrangements are regulated and monitored.

Other charitable activities at Nazareth Lodge

8.9 The note of my meeting with **SR 148** on 3 August 1995 (SNB 16661) concludes with a reference to the practice of religious staff offering charity to homeless men who called at the home on a regular basis (possibly weekly). Men came to the side of the administrative building where they received food parcels. This was a longstanding practice, which the Sisters saw as an important part of their charitable service to the community.

8.10 Generally, the children would have been at school when this took place, though this might not have been the case during school holidays. I do not recall offering any particular guidance on this matter.

Comment

8.11 The Sisters of Nazareth had provided a wide range of charitable services to the community over many years. The sites at Ravenhill Road and Ormeau Road were home to at least the following:

- Residential care of boys and girls respectively, some of whom had been rescued from unsatisfactory home situations by religious staff and

Reference _____

20. St. Joseph's Home:- Very institutional, but boys do get out
 Termonbacca, to school, younger ones to Nazareth
 Derry. House, older ones to Christian Brothers.
 (Nazareth Home) Short of staff; short of play equipment.
21. Nazareth House:- Best play equipment of any of the 4
 Derry. Nazareth Homes, at any rate for toddlers.
 Still very institutional.
22. Portadown Babies Home ^{especially}

The children in these 4 Homes have nothing like a normal upbringing. They must feel unloved as it is just not possible for the number of staff to show affection to such large numbers of children. They can know little or nothing of the world outside, (as with one exception school is on the premises), and must be completely unprepared for it, either in character or knowledge. I find these Homes utterly depressing and it appals me to think that these hundreds of children are being reared in bleak lovelessness. This is not meant entirely as criticism of the staff, but their task is impossible. Some of them have, however, little idea of what a child's life should be. They have got used to their own institutional set-up. For example, when asked about the children going out, one replied "Oh yes, they go to the Circus at Christmas". If this is their sole contact with the world they must have a distorted idea of it! Even their "god-parent" scheme is unreal, as instead of getting ordinary folk somewhere near the children's own level to be "uncles and aunts" they have looked for business men who will give the boys jobs on leaving - regardless of whether the business is likely to suit the boy!

In short, I think we must press for complete overhaul of the whole set-up of these Homes, and assist them in every way possible

Kathleen B. Forrest
 (K.B. FORREST)

28th April, 1953.

1 within the Lodge, who said there was a job for you in

2 You went, took that job and eventually

3 settled and have lived your life in

4 **A. That's true.**

5 Q. You describe how when you were living on this farm in

6 you essentially were in a lean-to hut -- that's

7 where you lived -- next -- and it was leaned against the

8 farmhouse.

9 **A. Uh-huh. Well, in modern terms it was a bothy.**

10 Q. That was your home while you did this work.

11 **A. Well, it was while I was living with . The**

12 **only thing I can say about them, they did feed me well.**

13 Q. I was asking you earlier in the context of positive

14 memories. You say, perhaps not for the right reasons,

15 but what you did learn through life in the Lodge was

16 an important life skill of independence, albeit you

17 learned it from perhaps treatment that shouldn't have

18 taken place, but that life skill of being independent

19 has allowed you to stand on your own two feet as you

20 moved out into the world.

21 **A. Well, it did. It made me stand on my own two feet and**

22 **make decisions, and I had to make decisions, because**

23 **I had nobody at the back of me, and I made the decisions**

24 **on a long-term view that I was going to make something**

25 **of myself.**

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on the other hand they could show enormous feelings of Love, Compassion and care when a boy or boys needed their help in time of any great illness or accident and would visit them in hospital. But in the end it does not excuse their behaviour. Some day they will have to answer for it. Some boys never ever recieved the parcels sent to them from their mothers or Aunts. 2 other punishments were to stand boys naked in the bath room and some were put into baths of cold water and made to sit there until told to get out. Just some times they were forgot about. We also had to touch the hand of the nun that was dead and was lying in the chapel, most boys did not. the funeral was down the stairs down the road to the little wall enclosed graveyard and we all had to stand around the wall for the final service. After it was over we changed and went and played and forgot the whole event. On Sandays in the summer months we would go out for a long walk to the Ormeau park on the Ravenhill road, and it could get very hot walking in those little brown uniforms. A lot of boys will never forgive them, and some will never forget for all the boys that went through those doors will have their own memories good and Bad. We who ~~were there~~ can keep alive the memories of all who managed to survive and remember those who are gone. An era has come to an end and i believe we will never see there like again, homes for poor and abandoned boys and girls whose mothers for one reason could not keep them and whom society seemed to frown on. As the song says those were the days my friends we thought they'd never end. Well they have for us and we can be proud of our achivements of what we have done and become. Some of those boys are gone before they could. But we remember them not just as other boys or friends but as Brothers. not in Blood, but body and Soul. Friend ships forged through a sharing of a common bond, a one parent or parentless family unit all thrown together. we were never at fault nor were our mothers. Society created the ignorance and lack of information that in the end its self created all the taboos surrounding one parent families, or those abandoned ones and for those reasons society created these homes which today are now closing. Nazareth Lodge is now closing to make way for some new development and the start of a new era for a different way of life what will it be, do we care. probably not. Large homes have had their day the boys are gone, the Nuns are gone and all the rooms are now empty. But Just before they pull the old

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place down. picture yourself there once again the shouts, laughter, and the tears, the pattering of little feet running down the corridors, and the hard graft of cleaning them on Saturdays, remember the smile on your face when you got a card from your Mother on your Birthday or her visit and tears when she left. But there was support there from your friends when you were punched or kicked by older boys, Shamed or strapped by the Nuns, and when you fell and hurt yourself a caring arm a laugh and a joke and it was soon all friends together in what ever game we were playing. Yes we did cry a lot at times and laugh, for we knew that no one would look ~~after~~ after us but ourselves. Some boys will never need looking after as they are no longer with us. Some boys have not fared so well either by circumstances, or ^{are} alone by choice. But some of our boys are still being looked after, but by the family that love them, and they can call them their own family.

I thank you for wanting to remember your past it's a good past, with faults, happy, sad, and hard. So for all those boys you may meet and those you can't, I thank you for all of them, and us, and for your youth, your laughter and tears and for your friendship, but most of all because you were there. Some do not want to remember for various reasons, of being known as home boys, or Bastards, what ever the reasons it's their choice, and finally school classes were

run in a sort of partnership or stages, certain lessons were taught by Nuns, and others by teachers, Sister **SR 34** had the first class room at the beginning of the corridor at **NL 65** the second, and Miss [REDACTED] the third, and a smaller room for boys a bit slower taken by another Nun, after 1954-55 a dozen boys who could not pick up schooling very quickly were sent outside to a special school for 'Slow Learners' or any body they thought was a little backward but there were some very lucky boys who were adopted or their parents came and took them home. The kitchen was at the very end of the corridor and you turned right to go in to the dining room, just on your left was a small corridor which led to the Back yard + farm + hall etc. A staircase was also there which led up to the back of the Chapel, the staircase was eventually taken away and the kitchen area extended and the corridor and stairway were gone and sealed the wall up, and every one for getting in they were there, as their main function was as a back stair way for the servants when the house was in the earlier centuries, to quietly go about there business with out any one seeing them.

PRIVATE

bed one night and I saw [REDACTED] NL 4 [REDACTED] rubbing his face in the mess. She made an example of him. [REDACTED] NL 4 [REDACTED] left the Lodge. Everyone was afraid of her and they cheered in the refectory when they saw her leave with her bags. However she returned about six months later dressed as a nun. I knew to stay out of her way in order to avoid being beaten. On one occasion she called my mother a 'tart' and said 'who does she think she is?' and punched me on the shoulder.

10. During the holidays we used to stay with families. When I was about eight or nine years old I went out at Christmas to a family who had a son about thirteen or fourteen years old. I had to share a bed with him. He tried to force me to have sex with him. I remember crying and screaming. He was hitting me as well as doing other things. I don't know name of the family.
11. I remember the food in the Lodge was basic. We ate things like vegetable roll, fried bread and powered potatoes which came in big sacks. There used to be a market in the city centre called 'Mays market' and the nuns would go down two or three times a week. At the end of the day people in the market would give the nuns food. They were getting the leftovers from the market. Buns were also donated every Sunday by Kennedy's Bakery. I remember being hungry all the time. Sometimes we went down to the playing fields at the back of the home. We picked a green leaf from the hedgerows called 'salix'. You could heat the leaf on the radiator and eat them. They were nice.
12. I think a lot of the clothes were donated to the home. Also the toys at Christmas were donated. After Christmas the toys were taken off us and the nuns told us that they were being sent to the babies in Africa who really needed them.
13. I never had any complaints about the nuns. The nuns were good and I have nothing bad to say about them. I was happy with them. They made sacrifices for us. I just suppose they didn't see what was going on. Even today I really miss them. I have missed them since I left Nazareth Lodge.

1 Q. That -- in February of last year, when you were signing
2 your statement for the Inquiry, that essentially summed
3 up your views of your time in care. Is that right?

4 **A. That's still my views of the times I am in there.**

5 Q. Well, one question that we -- I did sort of half ask you
6 on the last occasion, HIA24, and you did say something
7 about what you feel the Inquiry should recommend about
8 those like yourself who were brought up in institutions
9 and about what you suffered there, and I wondered if you
10 had had any more thoughts about it, or if there's
11 anything else you want to add to what you said on the
12 last day.

13 **A. Well, it's like I said. I said I didn't think them**
14 **places were the proper sort of places to bring up**
15 **children. I mean, if you are taking children out of**
16 **homes and stuff like that and putting them into another**
17 **place like that, you really don't learn anything about**
18 **life. Once you get outside you are lost. You have to**
19 **start all over again from scratch. There's no help out**
20 **there for you.**

21 Q. You certainly have expressed to me the fact that you
22 feel that your decision in coming forward to this
23 Inquiry is not about compensation but really to ensure
24 that what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else.

25 **A. That's right.**

1 Q. HIA24, I have no further questions for you, but is there
2 anything you feel we have not covered that you want to
3 say about, particularly about your time in Nazareth
4 Lodge, that you feel you haven't had the opportunity to
5 say? Please do tell us now.

6 A. Well, it's -- you are in them places. You are not
7 actually an individual. You're just a group and you're
8 getting controlled. It's just like you control slaves,
9 like. You know what I mean? You are told to do
10 something. You do it. If you don't do it, you get
11 whacked and that's it, and you learn to put up with all
12 that, and that's about as much as I can say.

13 Q. Well, thank you very much, HIA24. As I say, I have
14 nothing further. The Inquiry Panel may have some things
15 they want to ask you.

16 Questions from THE PANEL

17 CHAIRMAN: HIA24, can I ask you to think back to what you
18 were telling us about there being a gardening section as
19 you referred to it?

20 A. Yes. It was just a little place at the side of the
21 field that we used to go and we used to have
22 gooseberries and bits and pieces, like, you know,
23 growing and that was it.

24 Q. Can I just take you through a number of things? First
25 of all, do you remember any walled garden or anything

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This placement did not work out for me, and after about a year the farmer tried to put me back into Nazareth Lodge, but the nuns would not take me back. I was taken to the Salvation Army on the [REDACTED] and I stayed there for about a month and got a job in the [REDACTED] in Belfast. I worked there for about a year, but I decided that this was not for me, and so I went to Scotland when I was 16. I did not want to remain under the Guardianship of the Catholic Church until I was 21. [REDACTED]'s nephew helped me get a job in [REDACTED] where I worked for 2 years. I moved to [REDACTED] where I have spent my life.

27. I gained employment working for two contractors for the [REDACTED] and I worked my way through life. I visited [REDACTED] and she was glad to see me. I was married in 1962, but my wife passed away 30 years ago. I have a son and a daughter, 3 grandsons and a granddaughter.

28. I went back to Nazareth Lodge in 1955 to get my birth certificate. Sister **SR 118** told me that she did not have my birth certificate, but she gave me my baptism papers. I went back to the Lodge out of necessity, but I would not have gone back voluntarily. I later received my birth certificate from the Mater Hospital. I have since learned that my name was on a list of children to be sent to Australia on two separate occasions. I can remember the children who were sent away getting onto a double-decker bus with their suitcases.

29. My time at Nazareth Lodge made me independent and gave me self respect. It was hard, but I believe that you have to be able to show compassion and fairness to others. It was an experience, but not one that I would want to repeat. My time in care at Nazareth Lodge has affected the role that religion has played in my life. I have been to a Catholic Church twice since leaving the home, and they were both for special occasions. Other than that, religion does not play a role in my life.

30. I feel that I was mistreated and humiliated in the home, which has left me psychologically and emotionally scarred to this day. Sometimes I have nightmares about the beatings that I received. I was put into Nazareth Lodge

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were a lot of older boys and I found that intimidating. I do not remember any love or any stimulation.

5. I remember being punished a couple of times when I was about five or six years old for something trivial by being put in a freezing cold bath by **SR 118**. I was placed in the cold water and then the cold water was poured over my head about half a dozen times. I remember one occasion I was punished in this manner along with another boy called **HIA 427** who was my age. He had special needs and was not always in control of his bowels. I was punished first. **SR 118** then ordered me out of the bath and told **HIA 427** to get undressed. I realised **HIA 427** had soiled his underpants. **SR 118** took his soiled underpants and violently and cruelly rubbed them in his face. Until my dying day I will never forget what happened or what **SR 118** was capable of. **HIA 427** and I were only about seven years old and the experience has had a profound effect on me. I visited **HIA 427** when he was dying of cancer. Sadly he passed away on **2014** and I am glad to have had the opportunity to see him before he died. He was a lovely man and an old friend.
6. I also remember a night when **SR 34** made everyone in our dormitory get out of bed and kneel in the corridor for an hour. It was very cold. I do not know why we had to do this but I think it was because someone had done something wrong. **SR 34** must have realised how unfair she had been to us as she gave us all a chocolate sweet before we went to bed that night.
7. There was a lay staff member called **NL 4**. One day we were going in to the refectory for our dinner. There was a new kitchen being built and I was fascinated to see what had been built. I was looking in through the half door. I could hear **NL 4** saying to hurry up and the next minute she slapped me across the face from behind and knocked me off balance. It stung for several hours afterwards. There was no warning and it was a terrible experience. She was not suitable for that job because of her vile temper.

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Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (24/2/1948 – 21/12/1956)

2. I was admitted to Nazareth Lodge on 24th February 1948 when I was almost three years old. My life in Nazareth Lodge was bleak, harsh and cruel. The nuns were at best indifferent but more often were sadistic bullies who spoke with harsh loud voices in scornful, dismissive tones. They were quick to strike out and provided no reassurance or comfort to a small frightened child.
3. We slept in a large dormitory which had beds down the sides of the room and a row in the middle. There was a cubicle in the corner where the nun who was in charge of that dormitory slept.
4. I endured countless acts of physical violence and equally as traumatic, witnessed daily assaults as children were literally picked up by their ears and thrown to the ground, belted and kicked around. As a very small boy the terror of their shouting and name calling was terrifying. We were all called 'sons of whores', a term I never understood except that it was obviously bad and meant we were all very bad children. The verbal abuse from the nuns has stayed with me and I have never been able to forget how it made me feel as a young child.
5. I cried myself to sleep so often, in beds that were never warm enough with inadequate blankets, leaving me with freezing feet and never any sense of comfort or security.
6. As an adult I suffer from profound hearing loss. I am totally deaf in one ear and have only slight hearing in the other only assisted by a hearing aid that costs me approximately \$5000 AUD to replace every five years. My audiologist is clear this is the result of trauma from constant beatings to my head and ears as a child. Particularly when the nuns would 'box my ears' – slapping me hard with open palms across both ears, that forced air and pressure into my ears leading to permanent damage. The pain was excruciating and I would be nauseous and lose balance when they did that. They did it often. They crept up behind me if I was talking or something and they would say 'take that HIA 307'. By the time I left Nazareth Lodge in 1956 my hearing was severely impaired and it

HIA 307

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