

HIA REF: _____

NAME (In full): **SND 465**

DATE: 12 November 2013

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF**SND 465**

1. **SND 465** will say as follows: -

I started work as a social worker on 1 April 1977, in the Londonderry, Limavady and Strabane (LLS) District of the Western Health and Social Services Board.

Statutory social services had no role in the operation of Termonbacca or Nazareth House Children's Homes. They were run by the Sisters of Mercy. However, I do recall there was a representative from social services played a liaison/visitor role with Nazareth House in the late 80's early 90's.

I placed children both in Termonbacca and Nazareth House. As far as I remember there was never an allegation of physical abuse by staff members or older residents brought to my attention. However, one young person made an allegation of sexual abuse against a lay staff member in Nazareth House in the early 1990's and this was appropriately dealt with under the Joint Protocol arrangements that pertained at the time.

On behalf of Social Services I visited the children in these two children's homes to fulfil statutory obligations.

I would not have been aware of the recruitment regime of either home or their staff/children ratio. Neither would I have been aware of funding arrangements.

I can confirm that there was a complaints procedure in place in Nazareth House in the early 90's. Contact cards were available in the home for young people to complete and forward or give to their social worker or the Foyle Community Unit's Complaints Department.

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

Signed **SND 465**

Dated 12/11/13