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HIA REF: 132

Witness Name: HIA 132

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 132

I, HIA 132 will say as follows:-

Personal details

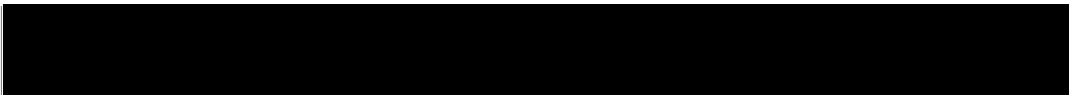
1. I was born on [REDACTED] I was the youngest of four children. The eldest was NL 72 who was born around 1951, NHB 24 was born around 1952, and NHB 25 was born around 1955. I was born in [REDACTED] but moved with my parents to [REDACTED] where my mother was from. We lived in [REDACTED] I do not know the details of how I ended up in care but I understand from my grandmother that my mother just took us to Belfast one day and placed the girls in Nazareth Lodge and the boys in Nazareth Lodge. I was about three years old. I don't know much about my parents but I believe that my father was an alcoholic and used to be violent to my mother and I think they just couldn't cope with us. I believe that they were together up until we were placed in care and separated shortly after.

Nazareth Lodge Children's Home, Belfast (15/11/1960 – 20/08/1968)

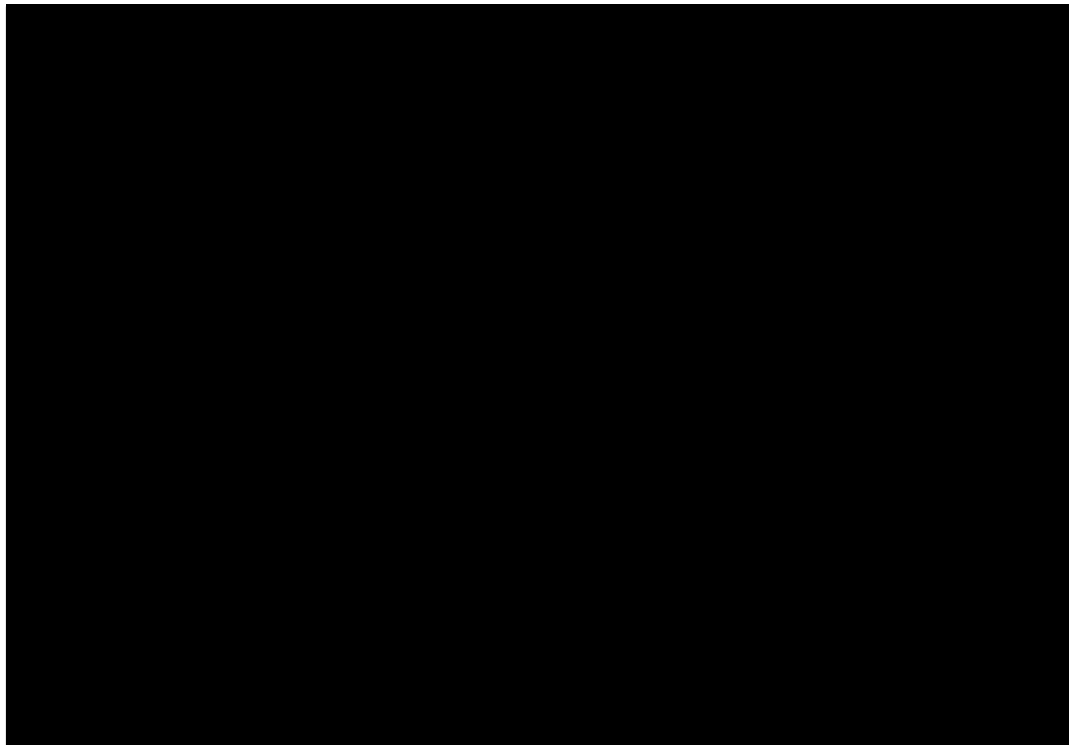
2. [REDACTED]

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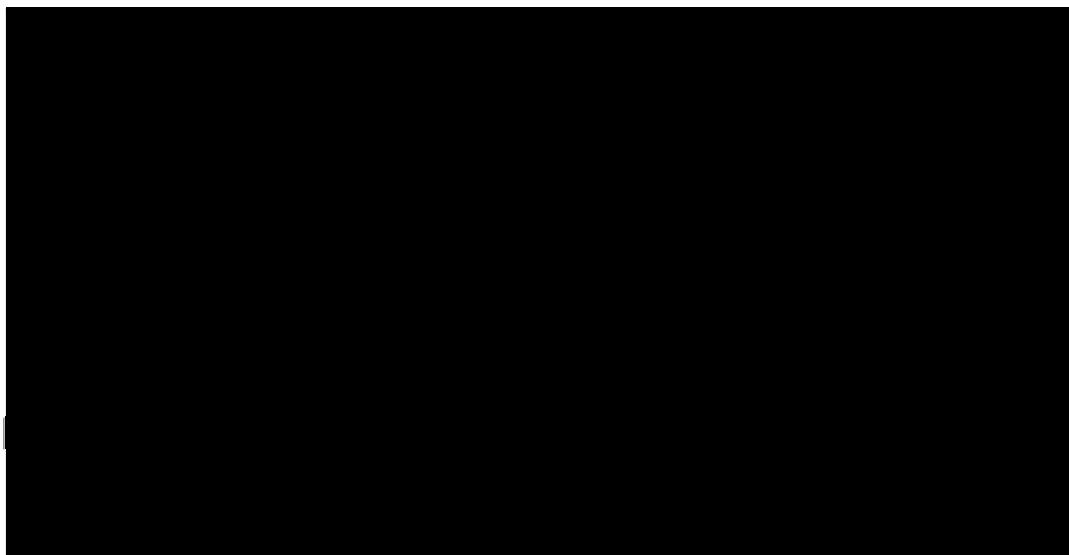
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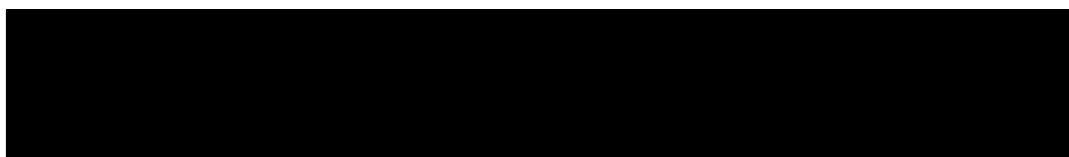
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11.

12.

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

13. I left Nazareth Lodge and went to Rubane House in Kircubbin on 20th August 1968 when I was eleven years old. I was only given a couple of hours notice. I was taken there in a minibus driven by either **BR 6** or Brother **BR 2** with about twelve other boys from Nazareth Lodge.

14. When I arrived there I was initially put in a dormitory in the big house with twenty to thirty beds in it. After a while I was moved to a chalet. I was moved to Chalet 1 under **BR 13**, **DL 134** and **DL 135**. It was regimental with the **DL 134, DL 135**. She was a very bad tempered woman and he was a bully. Brother **BR 13** was nice. I have no complaint about him. I think he was afraid of **DL 134**. **DL 134** I think there were fourteen of us in that Chalet. I had one of two single rooms and the rest were divided into three dormitories with four beds each. When I was in my single room there were always boys coming in and exposing themselves to me. It went no further than that. They were probably interfered with and thought it was normal.

15. I was sexually abused by **DL 134** on one occasion. We were being taught the accordion by a man called **DL 134**. I can't remember his surname. **DL 134** collected him and left him home. I remember **DL 134** taking me with him once to leave **DL 134** home and on the way back in the car he made me

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

16. I was never sexually abused by anyone else but I knew that boys were sexually abused by the brothers. My friend **HIA 21** told me that **BR 15** abused him in the shower.
17. I went to school on site there too. We were taught by the brothers, two nuns from America called **SR 33** and **SR 162** and other lay teachers. I suffered abuse by a lay teacher called **DL 6** who taught woodwork. He called everyone derogatory names like "fat head" and he would say it was a waste of time teaching us. If I didn't get the piece of woodwork I was making right he would hit me over the head with it. **BR 4** and **BR 6** knew that **DL 6** was violent because the boys would have told them but they did nothing about it.
18. I felt that the brothers didn't care about our education, like the nuns in Nazareth Lodge, and they didn't try because we were orphans and they thought it was pointless.
19. The daily routine was getting up, going to school, coming back, maybe cleaning your room, having dinner and then **BR 13** would say prayers with you in the evening, we watched television for a while and then went up to bed about 9pm.
20. I do not remember ever being visited by social services during my time in Nazareth Lodge, Rubane or after I left care. I do not remember any type of inspections in either Nazareth Lodge or Rubane.
21. When I was about fifteen I remember playing tennis up against the chapel wall when a Brother came and told me I had an hour to pack as I was leaving. Before I left the Brothers told me I was starting as a waiter in the **██████████** Hotel which the authorities or someone must have organised for me.

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22. I was given no preparation for life after care. We were never taught the value of money or how to manage our money. We were never taught social skills or how to look after ourselves. We were just left on our own to get on with it. I believe I was robbed of proper care and a proper education in both Institutions and as a result life has been a struggle ever since.

Life After Care

23. When I left care I was placed in a damp room in a lady's house on the [REDACTED] Road. No-one ever came to check up on me.

24. As I was living back in Belfast I went to Nazareth House to find [REDACTED] NHB 25. Apart from the visits to Scotland I had not seen her since we were placed in care. I visited her in Nazareth House and our relationship developed. She now has Huntington's disease and is in a care home in [REDACTED]. We still keep in touch but it is difficult to talk to her on the phone as her speech is so bad. [REDACTED] NHB 24 had already left Nazareth House and was living in London. I have never built a relationship with her. I haven't seen my brother [REDACTED] NL 72 since he was adopted. My sisters tried to find him but were unable to. I never saw my mother after she put us in care apart from seeing her once in [REDACTED] in the 1990s when I went to visit her. In the past year she has started to ring me but she is a stranger to me. She calls me son but I can't call her mother. She wasn't there when I needed her. I have no memories of my father.

25. I initially worked as a waiter in [REDACTED] Hotel and then I went to the [REDACTED] Hotel. I also worked as a van driver on the [REDACTED] Road and then I got into sales and was a sales representative. It has always been a struggle to get a job as I did not have a proper education. I also felt that I was disadvantaged when companies saw I had grown up in care. I had to give up work five years ago to become my wife's full-time carer after she had an aneurysm.

26. I got married when I was 18 as I was desperately looking for security and a stable home. We have been married nearly thirty seven years and we have

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three boys and four grandchildren. I feel I was good with my own children. I probably let them off with a lot and was very lenient. They have turned out well but I feel I could have done more for them if I had had a better job and been able to help them more financially.

27. I have always envied people who have their parents. I'm glad to see my sons are happily married with children. They have support and I envy that, I should have had that.
28. I believe my life ended when I came into the world. I didn't have a family upbringing. I was robbed of proper care and an education. I have persevered but life has been a struggle. I suffer from stress and have been receiving treatment since 1989.
29. I have never spoken to anyone about my experiences before, not even my wife. I'm glad I have been given this opportunity to tell what happened to me.
30. I would like to see the nuns and brothers who looked after us held to account for the way they treated us and for them to take responsibility for how the failings in our upbringing shaped us as adults. I would like to receive an apology from the orders and from the state. I also think we should be helped financially in some way to make amends for how the lack of education has affected our prospects as adults.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

HIA 132

Dated

10th / 3 / 2014