

HIA REF: []

NAME: NL 180

DATE: [23 January 2015]

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of NL 180

I, NL 180 [] in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) would state as follows.

1. I qualified as a Social Worker in July 1981 having completed a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Social Work and the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work. I was employed in the North and West Belfast Unit of Management in November 1981 as a Social Worker in a Child Care Team. I was based in [] Andersonstown.
2. I can confirm that I have been provided with some file records to read in connection with HIA 210. He and his brother NL 204 had been taken into care by the Craigavon Unit of Management in the Southern Board area and placed in Nazareth Lodge.
3. It is my understanding that the Southern Board remained responsible until both boys were settled into a fostering placement when the case was transferred to North and West Belfast. I do not know the date on which the transfer occurred.
4. HIA 210's initial placement broke down and he was placed in De la Salle in Kircubbin.

5. He remained there until December 1983 before being transferred to a smaller Home, Adelaide Park.
6. HIA 210 was then fostered with a family in the [REDACTED] area on the 20/1/1984. The foster family were very experienced. This initial placement broke down around the 13/4/1984 when HIA 210 was placed in Saint Patricks training School. This was for a short period after which he returned to the foster placement.
7. At this time HIA 210 had been suffering nightmares which lead, on occasions, to him waking the family. He alleged to his foster parents that whilst in Nazareth Lodge he had been mistreated. This was around November 1984.
8. I interviewed HIA 210 in the presence of his foster parents and he made a number of allegations which constituted abuse, being snatched, struck with implements such as a vacuum cleaner pipe. I had noted at the time that this may have provided some explanation as to the nightmares that he was experiencing
9. Having listened to HIA 210 I believed that there was some substance to the allegations he was making.
10. The allegations made by HIA 210 were raised by me with my Senior Social Worker NL 191
11. NL 191 and I subsequently met with HIA 210 to discuss his allegations on the 21/2/1985.
12. The allegations were in turn raised with [REDACTED] Principal Social Worker.
13. NL 204 HIA 210 brother, was interviewed with regard to the allegations. He confirmed some of the caring practices though not to the same extent as HIA 210

14. [REDACTED] and **NL 191** took responsibility for the continuation of the investigation.
15. I have no re-collection of being informed of the outcome of the investigation.
16. During my time in Child Care my contact with Nazareth Lodge would have been very limited.
17. Both **HIA 210** and **NL 204** believe, had left Nazareth Lodge prior to my involvement.
18. Generally as Nazareth Lodge was outside of our Unit of Management area, we would tend to use homes in North and West Belfast area.
19. In general the aim would have been to maintain children at home or seek fostering placement. Residential Homes were used as a last resort or an interim measure to allow for the exploration of alternatives.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed **NL 180**

Dated 23 January 2015

HIA REF: []
NAME: [**NL 180**]
DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of **NL 180**

- I, **NL 180** will say as follows: -
1. Further to my previous statement, I would add the following
 2. There was another family who I placed in Nazareth Lodge. This became necessary following the breakdown of a fostering placement.
 3. There were no alternative placements available in North and West Belfast neither in the homes or Short Term Fostering.
 4. I cannot remember the date of admission or discharge from the home.
 5. This was for a short period of time given the children's background which was not Roman Catholic and the placement was therefore not ideal.
 6. As it was the only placement available at short notice we had no option but to use Nazareth Lodge.
 7. I have no memory of any concerns raised by the family of the children nor any adverse comment by the children themselves.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

NL 180

Dated

5/2/2015

COURT REPORT

Re: **HIA 210** d.o.b. [REDACTED]
c/o St. Patrick's Training School

Family Composition :

Father : [REDACTED] Address Unknown
believed to be somewhere in [REDACTED]
Mother : [REDACTED] : Address Unknown
believed to be in temporary accommodation,
in London.

Siblings :

SPT 22	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] - Married
DL 307	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	Family Group Home, [REDACTED] (No longer in Care)
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	(Fosterparents - [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	([REDACTED])
HIA 210	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	**Subject
NL 204	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	c/o [REDACTED] (Fosterparents)
[REDACTED]	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
SND 430	d.o.b.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Background :

There are thirteen children in the **HIA 210** Family. The five oldest children came into the Care of the Tyrone County Welfare Committee between 1963 and 1965. Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] later moved to [REDACTED] where another six of their children were received into Care as a result of the marital disputes of the parents. The younger six children had little knowledge of the older five siblings taken into Care by the Tyrone County Welfare Committee. [REDACTED] has the youngest two children in her care, in the London area. **HIA 210** has had very little contact with the other members of his family except with his younger brother **NL 204** with whom he has had regular contact.

HIA 210 was received into Care on the 6th January 1970 under Section 99 C. & Y. P. Act 1968. A Fit Person Order was granted to the Southern Health and Social Services Board in the Petty Sessions District of Portadown on the 24th February 1970. This Order was granted under Section 93(1a) of the C. & Y.P. Act 1968. An application to vary the Order was heard at the Petty Sessions District of Craigavon on the 11. 5. 83. As a result of this the Order was varied transferring the responsibility of **HIA 210** care from the Southern Health and Social Services Board to the Eastern Health and Social Services Board as he was residing in the Eastern Board's Area.

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HIA 210 was initially placed in Nazareth House in Portadown until the 25th September, 1973 where he was transferred to Nazareth Lodge in Belfast. During June, 1975 an attempt was made to have HIA 210 fostered. At this time he was in contact with possible foster parents. However during April 1976 the prospective foster mother became seriously ill and subsequently died. It was several years later that a fostering placement was found for HIA 210 and he was eventually placed with a single foster parent [REDACTED] on the 9th August 1981.

Placement with [REDACTED] :

HIA 210 was nearly 12 years old when he was boarded out with [REDACTED] and this was the culmination of a year's introductory period. [REDACTED] was 46 years old when HIA 210 was placed. HIA 210 behaviour, whilst fostered, had always caused [REDACTED] difficulties. From the beginning he had constantly tested her out, his behaviour had always been demanding and difficult to manage. Though his behaviour improved while he was with [REDACTED] she still found him very trying.

HIA 210 behaviour in school also caused concern. He was attending [REDACTED] but he found the work too difficult and his behaviour made it difficult for the staff to manage him. Around April, 1983 it was decided that HIA 210 should attend a Special School. It was felt that [REDACTED] would not be suitable because his brother NL 204 was already attending there and concern was expressed that the two brothers would have a bad effect on one another. [REDACTED] health began to deteriorate and she had an attack of Angina. It was decided that in the light of these circumstances [REDACTED] School in [REDACTED] provided the best option. HIA 210 boarded here from Monday to Friday returning to [REDACTED] at weekends and holidays. Initially this arrangement appeared to work quite well. However after the Summer Holidays HIA 210 behaviour deteriorated once again. He was both aggressive and abusive towards [REDACTED] when he was angry. On one occasion he threatened to take a knife to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] felt that at this stage she had lost any control which she had over HIA 210 and it was this which caused [REDACTED] to feel scared of HIA 210. The decision to remove HIA 210 from [REDACTED] care was taken on the 3rd of October 1983, at a Review of the Case. It was felt by those in attendance that the De La Salle Boys Home at Kircubbin was the only alternative form of care available at that time. HIA 210 perception of the main reason for the breakdown of the placement, was [REDACTED] age. He had discovered just prior to the breakdown that [REDACTED] was in her late 40's, a similar age, according to HIA 210 as the prospective foster mother who died. He felt that if [REDACTED] was to die then he would be blamed. He was unable to see that his behaviour had contributed to the breakdown of the placement and [REDACTED] was no longer able to cope. In retrospect it is felt that HIA 210 should have been placed with a family, where he could have been better controlled by a male authority figure.

The placement at De La Salle Boys Home at Kircubbin was seen by Social Services as being of a temporary nature. It was hoped that another fostering placement could be found for HIA 210 through the Professional Fostering Scheme which had been initiated in the North & West District at that time. HIA 210 was made aware of these plans as it was his expressed wish to be fostered. In fact he had laid down a number of stipulations as to age and the members of the family in which he would like to be placed.

It appeared initially that HIA 210 had settled quite well into De La Salle. However within a few weeks of the placement HIA 210 began to express concerns as to his future.

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Whilst in De La Salle HIA 210 appeared to be the subject of bullying by the other boys in the home. A significant deterioration in both his appearance and behaviour was noticed by myself. Just after his admission to De La Salle HIA 210 changed from a neat appearance to adopting the skinhead style. This was an effort on his part to be like the other boys in the home. It appeared that this placement was not really suited to HIA 210 needs. If this deterioration was allowed to continue then HIA 210 may have become unfosterable and therefore permanently placed in De La Salle or another Institution. At a Review held in De La Salle on 29th November 1983 it was decided that the possibility of a placement in Adelaide Park Children's Home should be discussed with HIA 210. It was felt that the mixed sex and mixed religion of Adelaide Park would be more beneficial to HIA 210. Also there was more movement of children to and from Adelaide Park, as it was a short term with placements not exceeding 6 months. The children in Adelaide Park were more geared towards being fostered than De La Salle and this would provide a better preparation for HIA 210. He was transferred to Adelaide Park on the 15th December 1983.

The Placement in Adelaide Park Childrens Home :

It was fully explained to HIA 210 at this time that this placement was short term by the end of which we would have a better idea as the possibilities of a fostering placement. Initially HIA 210 appeared to accept this and quite looked forward to his stay in Adelaide Park. However the deterioration in his behaviour continued.

After the Christmas Holiday HIA 210 began attending [redacted] Special School. However he missed the bus on a number of occasions. By the 9th January 1984 HIA 210 was not being sent to school as he claimed that he was having problems with the Protestant children at the School, as [redacted] is predominantly Protestant. Arrangements were made to transfer HIA 210 to [redacted] Special School. The Educational Psychologist expressed the opinion that this would probably not last given the continued deterioration in HIA 210 behaviour.

HIA 210 behaviour in the Home had deteriorated significantly. He was involved in stealing from the shops around [redacted] School and also from a flat in the vicinity of Adelaide Park. The stolen articles were returned to the flats and attempts were made by the staff in Adelaide Park to contact the people concerned. No complaints were made to the Police by the residents of the flats. However the nearest Juvenile Liaison Branch of the R.U.C. was contacted and they came to Adelaide Park to talk to HIA 210 with little effect. He did not appear too concerned or worried about the Police involvement.

The more worrying aspect of HIA 210 behaviour for the staff was the fact that he had become a danger to the younger children. Apparently on a number of occasions he had been fighting with the younger children and on one occasion he violently kicked another child. HIA 210 was also verbally abusive to staff, especially female staff and on a number of occasions knives had to be taken from him when he refused to put them down.

During this time HIA 210 expressed distrust of Social Workers generally. He saw his future as being moved from one Childrens Home to another with no hope of foster parents being found. No guarantees could be given to HIA 210 and this added to his insecurity. He felt that no-one was doing anything to help him. HIA 210 expressed particular concern with regard to my efforts to find him foster parents. During the same interview HIA 210 threatened to commit suicide, this he felt would solve everyone's problem and no-one need then worry on his account - not that anyone did.

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The staff in Adelaide Park came to the conclusion that they would no longer be able to contain HIA 210. It was felt that the more vulnerable children would be at risk when he was around. Also at a Review held in Adelaide Park on the 13. 1. 84 the opinion was expressed that HIA 210 should be removed before a more serious incident occurred. Not only was HIA 210 considered to be a danger to others he could also have been a danger to himself given the feelings he was expressing at that time.

There appeared to be only two options available for HIA 210 at this time. (1) St. Patrick's Training School or (2) Short-term Foster Parents. St. Patrick's it was felt would not be the best option. There was a possibility that HIA 210 would see this as a punishment and his behaviour would have continued to deteriorate. If this were to happen then HIA 210 would be unfosterable, his future then would be extremely bleak. The second option of a short-term foster parent placement was a more attractive proposition offering HIA 210 the chance to succeed in a fostering placement and through this increasing his chances of a professional fostering placement. It would also give Social Services assessing his suitability for this scheme. The staff at Adelaide Park had posed some doubts as to his suitability for this scheme.

NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 (short term foster parents) were approached with regard to placing HIA 210 with them. They were made aware of HIA 210 behavioural problems and also the feelings of staff in Adelaide Park who felt that this type of placement would break down quite rapidly. After a lot of discussion NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 decided that they would offer HIA 210 a place with their family at [REDACTED]

Placement with NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 :

HIA 210 was placed with the NL 188 on the 20th January, 1984. NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 have two children [REDACTED] aged around 5 years and [REDACTED] aged around 2 years. HIA 210 felt that this placement would work and that it was the best option for him.

Initially HIA 210 settled extremely well into the NL 188 home. However a number of problems arose with HIA 210 (1) education and (2) behaviour in the home.

(1) Education :

HIA 210 had begun to attend [REDACTED] whilst he was placed in Adelaide Park. After his transfer to NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 he continued to attend this school. The main problem initially was his attendance. On a number of occasions HIA 210 missed the transport provided. This was not entirely HIA 210 fault, there were a number of occasions when the bus did not pick him up at the allotted place. On a number of occasions HIA 210 appeared to miss the bus deliberately when this happened. I would normally have transported him to school. It seemed that he was doing this to get more attention from his social worker. This arrangement was discontinued and an arrangement whereby if HIA 210 missed the bus he returned to the NL 188 and they arranged transport to the school. When he returned from school he made up for the time he had missed in his bedroom with extra schoolwork usually set by Mrs. NL 188. HIA 210 missed the bus much less often when this approach was adopted.

His behaviour in school also caused a problem. On a number of occasions he was on the verge of expulsion because of something he had either said or done in class. He was very disruptive generally and he was abusive towards teachers. HIA 210 did not appear to understand that his behaviour in total had a bearing on any future placement.

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Once this was made absolutely clear there was a slight improvement in his behaviour in school. NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 maintained constant contact with the school. They were kept fully informed as to HIA 210 behaviour whilst at school. If any problems arose they would face HIA 210 with the difficulties he had caused and use a suitable punishment at home for any difficulty he had created in school, such as writing lines and spending time in his room. Though this they were able to make HIA 210 understand that there was a link between school and home, and that any misbehaviour in school would be dealt with by them as well as by the school. It was through this effort by them that an improvement in his behaviour at school was achieved and there was also an improvement in his school work.

(2) HIA 210 behaviour in the home :

Throughout his stay in NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 home HIA 210 showed a continual improvement in his behaviour. Each time HIA 210 misbehaved at home NL 188 or Mrs. NL 188 dealt with it firmly. Up until his placement with the NL 188 HIA 210 had little respect for female authority and would quite often flaunt it. Therefore in the initial period after his placement a lot of the strain of reprimanding HIA 210 fell to Mrs. NL 188. It was important for HIA 210 to learn that a woman could be strong and that her authority had to be respected.

Generally HIA 210 behaviour did improve significantly during the period he spent with the NL 188. This was not only due to long and patient work by NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 but also by HIA 210 who made great efforts to improve his own behaviour.

It was generally felt that HIA 210 was suitable for a Professional Fostering Placement and every effort was being made to find a suitable placement. However HIA 210 felt that not enough was being done for him. On a number of occasions he called to the office in an agitated state to discuss the likelihood of being fostered. No guarantees could be given to HIA 210 that he would be fostered and this in turn added to his feelings of insecurity. NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 tried to make him feel as secure as possible. HIA 210 was initially told that a short-term placement was of six months duration. As each month passed with nothing on the horizon so his insecurity increased. He was told that he could remain with NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 until at least the Autumn. To this end arrangements were being made for HIA 210 to accompany the family on a holiday to Spain from June 30th to July 15th 1984. However this placement broke down on the 13. 4.84.

Events leading up to the breakdown
of the Fostering Placement :

This placement broke down when NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 discovered that HIA 210 had been involved in the break-in at St. John the Baptist School on the 24. 3. 84. HIA 210 had admitted to the NL 188 that he had been involved after his brother had implicated him in the break-in. It appears that HIA 210 along with his brother NL 204 broke into the school sometime during the evening of 24. 3. 84 between 5.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. This is the only time throughout the placement that NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 could not account for HIA 210 whereabouts. Each of the boys blames the other as the main instigator of the break-in. The most shocking aspect of this break-in was the excessive amount of damage caused, which runs into thousands of pounds. HIA 210 appeared to show no remorse and in fact boasted about his part in causing the damage to the school. He apparently expressed pleasure at being involved to the other foster child in the home. NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 felt that this was the most worrying aspect and it was for this reason that they asked for HIA 210 to be removed. Another factor contributing to his removal was the fear of possible reprisals in the area.

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HIA 210 was removed under Section 99 C. & Y.P. Act 1968 and placed in St. Patrick's Training School. This was the only option which was available to HIA 210. He appeared to be beyond any care or control that could be provided by Social Services at that time.

Events since the placement in St. Patricks :

It is now felt that some others broke into the school after HIA 210 and NL 204 had left. From both HIA 210 and NL 204 description it would appear they were in only one classroom. However there was damage to a number of classrooms. Also some of the classrooms were fouled with excreta. Neither HIA 210 nor NL 204 appeared to have been involved in this aspect of the breakin.

Since his placement in St. Patrick's HIA 210 has had time to reflect on the effect this break-in has had on him. Mrs. NL 188 and myself visited him on the 18. 4. 84 and spoke to him with regard to the incident. HIA 210 was forced to consider the feelings of the NL 188 family whom he had hurt by becoming involved in this incident. Mr. NL 188 visited that evening and took a similar position. HIA 210 was left in no doubt that prior to this incident Mr. and Mrs. NL 188 was giving consideration to fostering HIA 210 on a long term basis. Since his admission NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 and their children have visited him on a number of occasions. HIA 210 has expressed a wish to return to the NL 188 home. When he has expressed this wish, he is faced with the reason why he was placed in St. Patricks. HIA 210 now appears to be sorry for what he has done and is generally showing more remorse. Whether this is for the damage caused to the school or the damage he has caused himself is hard to judge.

Conclusion :

Initially after HIA 210 removal from NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 it was felt that HIA 210 was beyond any care or control that could be provided by Social Services. However after HIA 210 removal to St. Patrick's Training School when feelings were running high, information came to light that HIA 210 did not do as much damage as first thought. NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 felt that in the light of this and the fact that HIA 210 had become more remorseful they would reconsider their decision to have him removed. They felt that HIA 210 had made significant improvement in his behaviour and these may be lost if he was to remain in St. Patricks. This also reflected the feelings of Social Services. Prior to HIA 210 being placed in St. Patricks, NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 had considered applying to become professional foster parents specifically for HIA 210. Having reconsidered HIA 210 removal they now wish to proceed with this course of action. The assessment of them as professional foster parents will begin almost immediately with a view to placing HIA 210 with them. While this assessment is being carried out it is felt that HIA 210 has no alternative but to remain in St. Patrick's Training School as he is beyond the care and control of a Childrens Unit.

Recommendations :

In the light of NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 wish to professionally foster HIA 210 I would respectfully recommend that an Interim Training School Order be granted . in respect of HIA 210. It is hoped that NL 188 and Mrs. NL 188 will be accepted as Professional Foster Parents for him as the alternative to this would be to continue in Residential Units with HIA 210 behaviour becoming progressively more difficult to control.

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Relationships within the Family :

HIA 210 has surprised us by the depth of feeling he has for the family and his very loving nature has warmed our home and won our hearts. The first months showed him to be inquisitive about our relationship as husband and wife and he would enquire about our feelings for one another and how we could reconcile so easily even after a disagreement. His mental picture of marriage seemed to be that painted in T.V. shows like Dallas etc. where disagreement meant a family breakup. We did not shield HIA 210 from the ups and downs of a normal marriage and we can see that he has grown to feel more secure with the display of feelings between us. In regard to the younger children HIA 210 did try to bully who is six, but she dealt with this herself and has become HIA 210's greatest ally. The use of this term is deliberate as she shields and supports him when he is being corrected and yet draws attention to his bad behaviour in a way that HIA 210 feels is acceptable. who is two fascinates HIA 210 many times he will draw our attention to the new things that is doing, remarking on the words is now using and enjoying the experience of teaching the baby. He will play with him and distract him to allow us to work about the house. When the children are disciplined we explain to HIA 210 the reason for this and relate it to how our love for them and for him makes this imperative to prepare them for adult life. who is our other foster child and is a year older than HIA 210 can relate to HIA 210 at times and at other times ignores him. This is more a problem on side not HIA 210. There is nothing in the line of interests to draw the two closer except perhaps music but we have talked with about his responsibility towards HIA 210 as they are members of our family unit. There has been encouraging signs that this is helping and is displaying a more caring attitude to HIA 210. HIA 210 generally creates the illusion that he is 'big headed' and sure of himself and most importantly never makes mistakes. He can be irritating at times with this facade refusing to accept responsibility for his accidents and mistakes and going very defensive in attitude. He rarely pays compliments to anyone but is quick to criticise. We have been playing HIA 210's own remarks about himself down whilst showing him the more important attributes in his character. In talking over incidents in school or at home we attempt to make HIA 210 accept his failings and cushion this by talking about our own mistakes. We use physical contact a lot as touch and closeness is important to him. He loves to be included in the games we play with the little ones, the concerts and story times. Recently HIA 210 has been having nightmares, he shouts and talks in his sleep, wakes with a sweating brow and appears to be unaware of his surroundings. It is impossible to understand what he is saying only one or twice could we hear him calling to be allowed out. He started through us talking about his own childhood experiences to tell some of the incidents that happened when he was in Nazareth Lodge. He received beatings as did the other children including his brother NL 204. They told their Social Worker about one of these and after she spoke to SR 62 (Housemother) they were brought to the office and told that they had deserved the beating. After the social worker left both boys were put into a bath of cold water. He talks about being locked in a cleaning cupboard and on one occasion he was locked in the bathroom in the dark all night. When asked whether or not he was frightened by this HIA 210's answer was 'no, will not really'. We feel perhaps in the close environment of a Childrens Home HIA 210 hid his reactions to many of these because of bravado. He cannot tell exactly why they were beaten, perhaps he was never told. He relates stories about Childrens Parties held by Organisations and toys and presents being given to them. One such gift was a hooter and gun which SR 62 took off HIA 210 and he never saw them again.

We feel that perhaps these disturbing incidents are the cause of HIA 210's nightmares. We along with the social worker are trying to build up a fuller picture of these events in an attempt to help him cope with his past.

Continued/3

November 1984

During this month HIA 210 was interviewed with regard to his experiences in Nazareth Lodge. This was necessary after HIA 210 began to have nightmares and at night wake up in a disorientated state, not knowing where he was. His nightmares woke the other members of the family who heard him shout in his sleep. He discussed some of these nightmares with Mrs. NL 188 and began to describe the treatment he received whilst in Nazareth Lodge. It would appear from HIA 210 description that he regularly received beatings from the nun in charge of his group, SR 62. These he claimed would be with whatever implement would be at hand i.e. a stick and on one occasion a vacuum cleaner pipe. Apparently the vacuum cleaner pipe was used on one occasion when HIA 210 was in a hurry to finish his chores and go out and play. It would seem that he was not completing the task to SR 62 satisfaction and she hit him with the vacuum cleaner pipe. He claimed that on one occasion SR 62 split his brother's head open and it required stitches *. At the time of one of these incidents the

- ① Social Worker involved was informed of a beating, according to HIA 210. The Social Worker spoke with SR 62. Both boys were then brought to the Office and told that they had deserved the beatings. After the social worker left both boys were
- ② put in a bath of cold water as a punishment for informing the Social Worker. On another occasion HIA 210 claimed that he was locked in a bathroom overnight without lights (both the lock and the light switch were on the outside of the bathroom).
- ③ A darkened cupboard was also used for similar punishments. Another incident HIA 210 found very disturbing has been described by him in two ways. At one time a child was murdered and mutilated in Ormeau Park (the killer apparently was never captured). In his description to the foster parents he was told of the incident in a threatening manner. However in his description to me he claimed that SR 62 was warning them to be careful. HIA 210 said that other members of staff also beat the children, one in particular was forced to leave after a fight with another member of staff in which she threatened to throw hot chipfat round the other member of staff.

HIA 210 view was that on the whole he did not deserve most of these beatings and that they were more severe than necessary. If these incidents are in fact true it would give us a further insight into HIA 210 behaviour.

NL 180

Social Worker

21. 2. 85

On 21. 2. 85 I interviewed ^{HIA 210} along with his foster parent, **NL 188** and **NL 180** S.W. regarding the recent allegations that ^{HIA 210} has been making about the way he was treated while in Nazareth Lodge. ^{HIA 210} has particularly bad memories of being locked in a cupboard for 4 - 5 hours as a means of punishment by both a member of staff called **NL 66** and **SR 62**. He said that he remembers that there was no light in this cupboard. He also said that he was hit with brush poles as a means of punishment. He described an incident concerning another child with whom he was with in the Unit. According to ^{HIA 210} on one occasion **NL 97** was pushed against a sink and banged his head. He had 2 black eyes as a result of this and was not brought to hospital for treatment. He said that **NL 97** was kept off school for about 2 to 3 weeks.

^{HIA 210} said that he had told his Social Worker **NL 190** about being hit on one occasion by **SR 62** with a stick but the Social Worker he said believed **SR 62** (I contacted ^{HIA 210} previous social worker **NL 190** nee **NL 190** about this allegation. She said that ^{HIA 210} never told her about being hit and she never saw any signs of either ^{HIA 210} or **NL 204** being punished inappropriately while she was visiting them in Nazareth Lodge). On another occasion ^{HIA 210} remembers being hit and having a very sore arm and shoulder. ^{HIA 210} claims that **SR 62** would have used 'anything she could get her hands on' to hit the children with. On one occasion he said that **NL 204** got hit with a hosepipe of a vacuum cleaner. ^{HIA 210} also said that he remembers being punched on the nose because he didn't want to go to his ^{HIA 210} classes. Another form of punishment which ^{HIA 210} described to me vividly was being locked in a bathroom all night long. He also remembers being put into cold baths.

^{HIA 210} said that he remembers when he was about 6 or 7 years old going out to a family, ^{HIA 210} with whom he was to be fostered. ^{HIA 210} had bought him a bike for Christmas and when he brought it back to Nazareth Lodge it was taken off him and he never saw it again. ^{HIA 210} also said that the children in the Unit were threatened that if they misbehaved that the man who had abducted and murdered a young boy from the Ormeau Park would get them also.

On 3. 4. 85 I interviewed ^{HIA 210} brother **NL 204** with regard to the allegations which ^{HIA 210} had made. **NL 204** had difficulty remembering who was in the Unit with him and along with his brother the other children he remembers were **NL 56** and **NL 57**. He has no memories of being moved to Nazareth Lodge. He remembered **NL 66** who he described as 'O.K.' He then said that she was 'good and kind' to him. I asked him if he had ever remembered being hit by either **NL 66** or **SR 62**. He said that sometimes he would have got smacked around the head although this was never hard. **SR 62** he said would have hit the children with a wooden spoon or slipper. He denies ever having seen ^{HIA 210} being hit. When asked if he ever remembered seeing **NL 97** with black eyes he said he did - but this occurred when his brother and **NL 97** were playing 'hide and seek' and bumped into each other. When asked about the cupboard which ^{HIA 210} describes being locked into **NL 204** said he remembers being told to go and stand in it. He also said that he found ^{HIA 210} in this cupboard on one occasion. This cupboard he said could be opened from both the inside and outside and was not locked when he found ^{HIA 210} in it. He does remember on one occasion being told to eat soap along with other children. However just as he was about to eat the soap it was taken off him. **NL 204** also remembers ^{HIA 210} having a bike and there were bikes available for the children to play on.

NL 191

Senior Social Worker

GA:mc

11. 4. 85