

HIA REF: []

NAME: [NL 191]

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995**Witness Statement of NL 191**

I, NL 191 will say as follows: -

1. I qualified as a Social Worker in 1976 after doing my professional Social Work qualification at University College Dublin and was awarded the Certificate Qualification in Social Work (CQSW). I hold a BSC honours obtained July 1974 and a Diploma in Applied Social Studies in 1976. I commenced work as a basically qualified social worker in 1974 and returned to work as a Social Worker in North and West Belfast Community Unit of Management after obtaining my professional qualification. I worked as social worker until my appointment as a Senior Social Worker in 1983 and was responsible for a team of Social Workers covering the west Belfast area. Subsequent to this post I continued to work in the Belfast Trust and moved to Older Peoples Services in 1987. I was appointed as an Assistant Principal Social Worker in 1991 and then as an Operations Manager in September 2004. I am currently an Assistant Services Manager, managing regulated services including domiciliary, residential and day care services.

2. In relation to the applicant HIA 210 I was the Senior Social Worker who managed NL 180 social worker who was allocated HIA 210 case. HIA 210 had resided in the Southern area of management and was boarded out with a foster parent in West Belfast. His case was subsequently transferred to the North and West community unit of management and allocated to NL 180 social worker. I have been shown the records available from that period, which highlights the issues raised by HIA 210 in relation to Nazareth Lodge. NL 180 brought to my attention as his line manager the issues raised by HIA 210 concerning his time spent in Nazareth Lodge. At that time I also interviewed HIA 210 and forwarded a record of my interview and issues

outlined to the principal social worker for further action to be taken. I can confirm that these reports, which I understand have also been submitted to the Inquiry, are a true reflection of my memory of this case.

3. As a social worker or as a team leader within the north and west unit of management I never had the responsibility for any other children who resided in Nazareth Lodge and had no contact with that residential facility.
4. I recall that this case was a very complex case in terms in trying to find suitable placements to meet HIA 210 needs.
5. In relation to the concerns raised by HIA 210 foster carers, NL 188 & Mrs NL 188 to NL 180 about HIA 210 having nightmares, NL 180 then discussed this matter with HIA 210 and I have seen the report he prepared in respect of this. He followed this up by having a discussion with me and as a result, I decided that I would also interview HIA 210 which I did on 21st February 1985, see exhibit 1. Following this interview and my subsequent concerns with what HIA 210 had told me, I raised this issue with the senior manager Principal Social Worker. I am aware from the notes in HIA 210 HIA 210 historical file which I viewed on Monday 19 January 2015, that he reported this to the Eastern Health and Social Services Board who in turn reported this to DHSS, see exhibit 2
6. I clearly believe that there was credibility to HIA 210 complaint about Nazareth Lodge and I believe that may have been a contributory factor to the nightmares he related at that time.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

NL 191

Dated

26th January 2015

Witness name: Health and Social Care Board

Date: 26 January 2015

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995

NL 191

Exhibit 1

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.

NL 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 Irish Dancing 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, with whom he was to be fostered. 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

Witness name: Health and Social Care Board

Date: 26 January 2015

The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse 1922 to 1995

NL 191

Exhibit 2

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD
NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT
COMMUNITY UNIT OF MANAGEMENT
MEMORANDUM

From [REDACTED] PSW
Ref. HC/DP

To [REDACTED] ADSS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Ref. [REDACTED] FORWARD TO [REDACTED]
SEEN BY [REDACTED]

30 April 1985

Re HIA 210 - dob [REDACTED]
b/o NL 188 and Mrs NL 188

EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD	
ADSS OF SOCIAL SERVICES	
FORWARD TO	
SEEN BY	PC
FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>
- 2 MAY 1985	
COPY TO	
FOR: ACTION/COMMENT/INFORMATION	

Please find enclosed copies of 2 reports forwarded to me by [REDACTED] NL 191 Senior Social Worker in the Andersonstown office. They concern a boy, HIA 210 who is currently boarded out with [REDACTED] NL 188 and Mrs [REDACTED] NL 188 but who has been most of his life in Nazareth. The initial report dated 6.3.85 was not forwarded to you as it was felt that there were certain ambiguities in it and I asked [REDACTED] NL 191 to follow up these issues. You will see from her report of 11.4.85 that she has been able to be somewhat more clear but there are still areas of discrepancy. The lad to whom she refers in this report, [REDACTED] NL 97 is currently the subject of a transferred Fit Person Order from our Unit of Management to Antrim. I have not approached Antrim and felt that this might be something which you might wish to do formally.

The allegations that [REDACTED] HIA 210 has made would certainly be of a serious nature. As a child he is not adverse to making allegations although we have no personal experience of him being dishonest in this nature although his interpretation of what has happened, as always the case, may be called into question.

PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER

HIA REF: []

NAME: [NL 191]

DATE: []

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of NL 191

I, **NL 191** will say as follows: -

In addition to my statement of 26 January 2015, I would confirm that I am not in a position to comment on Nazareth Lodge as I had no contact with this children's home. I worked within the North and West community unit and children who I had responsibility for and who were admitted to care were in the first instance placed in foster homes/kinship placements as an alternative to institutional care or mainly within the children's homes in North and West Belfast community which existed at that time.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

NL 191

Dated

29th January 2015

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

NORTH AND WEST BELFAST DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

From **NL 191** S.S.W. To - P.S.W.
 Ref. GA/JW Ref. 6th March, 1985

RE:- **HIA 210** d.o.b. 25/8/69.
 B/O with **NL 188** and Mrs. **NL 188**

Further to my telephone conversation with you concerning the above named boy, please find enclosed copy of case notes of an interview **NL 180** Social Worker, had with **HIA 210** concerning allegations made about the time **HIA 210** spent in Nazareth Lodge from 28.9.73. to 9.8.81.

I recently interviewed **HIA 210** on 21/2/85. with regard to these allegations and although there were some differences on his memories of incidents, generally it appears that **HIA 210** recent nightmares could be the result of his memories of what he experienced while in Nazareth Lodge.

According to **HIA 210** he appears to have received beatings with instruments and in particular has horrific memories of being locked in a cupboard as a punishment. However **HIA 210** brother **NL 204** who also was in Nazareth at the same time does not remember any such incidents and did not substantiate **HIA 210** account of their time in Nazareth Lodge. However, perhaps an effort could be made to contact other children who were in the unit then and in particular the injury **HIA 210** claims **NL 204** sustained the same time as **HIA 210**

According to **HIA 210** these children were, **NL 97** **NL 30** **NL 33** and **NL 68** and **NL 57** and **NL 56** **DL 40** and **Ian Howell**.

NL 191

Senior Social Worker

Eastern Health and Social Services Board
North and West Belfast Community
Unit of Management



Milner Street
 Belfast BT12 6FA
 Telephone 27156

CONFIDENTIAL

27 June 1985

SR 143

Nazareth Lodge Children's Home
 516 Ravenhill Road
 BELFAST BT6

District Social Services Officer: *W. H. H. H. H.*

our ref: HC/DP *RB*

your ref: ☐ *1.1.11.1985* ☐

SA
1.1.1985

FOR ACTION/CONVENT INFORMATION

Dear **SR 143**

Further to our discussion on the 25.6.85. You will recall that I mentioned that both I and **NL 191** Senior Social Worker, Andersonstown office, had interviewed **HIA 210** on Friday 21.6.85. As you know, **HIA 210** was in Nazareth from approximately 1974 - 1981.

HIA 210 has made a list of complaints about the treatment he received in Nazareth and, in particular, has cited 2 individuals, **NL 66** and **SR 62**. The list of complaints that **HIA 210** has raised are as follows -

- 1 That on one occasion **SR 62** punched him in the nose, drawing blood.
- 2 On another occasion another boy in the unit at that time by the name of **NL 97** was struck by **SR 62** and, as a consequence, banged his head off a wash-hand basin causing him severe swelling to his face and 2 black eyes.
- 3 On numerous occasions he says that he was physically punished by both **SR 62** and **NL 66** the latter he recalls using a bamboo cane, and the former, a stick or mop handle.
- 4 On numerous occasions he was locked in a store cupboard under the stairs. This cupboard was normally used to store domestic equipment and he says he was made to sit in it for lengthy periods of time.
- 5 On 2 or 3 occasions he says he was made to sleep in the bathroom as a punishment over-night.
- 6 He says that on one occasion he complained to his social worker, **NL 190** who was then employed by the Southern Health and Social Services Board, that she took this issue up with **SR 62** and on leaving, **SR 62** put both him and his younger brother, **NL 204** into a cold bath as a punishment for having spoken to his social worker.
- 7 He says on numerous occasions he was deprived of food for periods up to one day, and
- 8 on one occasion he was served liver as his meal, disliking liver one of the other children placed this in a waste-bin. When **SR 62** came into the room she discovered the liver, took it out of the waste-bin and made him eat it.

As you will be aware we suggested to you that **HIA 210** was quite prepared to confront anyone on these allegations and was strenuous in his insistence that he was telling the truth. He quoted a number of other children who were in the unit at that time whom he alleged

- 2 -

would collaborate his story. He recalled other members of staff, namely [NL 146] and [NL 147] whom he spoke highly of and, indeed, he recognised in himself a certain attachment to [SR 62]. We therefore believed that whilst there is a possibility that there might be some exaggeration, nevertheless [HIA 210] allegation must be taken seriously.

As you will know, [redacted] with whom I have consulted, has suggested that in the company of yourself I should speak to [NL 146] and [NL 147] about their time in the unit. I have told [redacted] that [SR 62] is currently in [redacted] and is not working with children and that the whereabouts of [NL 66] are unknown, although we will try to ascertain this. At this stage it is not my intention to interview any of the other children cited by [HIA 210] although I presume this remains a possibility.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER

cc [NL 191] SSW
[redacted] ADSS