

PRIVATE

HIA REF: SPT 53

Witness Name: SPT53

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF SPT53

I, SPT53 will say as follows:-

1. I was employed at St Patrick's Training School Glen Road Belfast and worked at the Training School from [REDACTED] when I retired. I was initially employed as a [REDACTED] but by the time I retired I was the [REDACTED]. The Training School had a Director in charge of the entire school but was then divided into a Care side and a Justice side each of which had their own Deputy Head.
2. SPT156 was also employed at St Patrick's Training School and she was a [REDACTED] within the school grounds. She took up this position in or around [REDACTED] and remained there until she retired in [REDACTED]. I helped out at [REDACTED] in a more supervisory role but SPT156 was responsible for the children within [REDACTED] and I was not an official [REDACTED]. We lived together [REDACTED] in the staff quarters at the Training School for a number of years before we eventually moved after we purchased our own home.
3. When the boys went to bed in [REDACTED] I did not stay with them. There was a room in which one of the Brothers stayed and they would have dealt with any issues which arose. I also believe that a watchman would also have been responsible for looking after the children at night and I believe that this

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watchman scheme came into operation in the early 1980s but I am not certain of the date.

4. I have been made aware that some of the former residents at the Training School have made allegations about some of the Brothers and staff. I can categorically state that I did not witness any of the Brothers abuse or assault any of the boys during my employment. I have nothing but the highest regard for the Brothers and the way in which they dedicated their lives to helping the children in St Patrick's improve their lives. I also do not believe that a strict regime was in place at the Training School and I never carried a strap or a cane and the Brothers did not carry a strap or a cane to my knowledge.
5. I am now aware that a former member of staff called DL137 did abuse boys within the Training School. I became aware of this after speaking to a boy named SPT140 who was distressed. He told me that DL137 had been propositioning him and I immediately brought the matter to the Director of the School. I reported it to him and not the police. I believed that DL137 was dismissed from the School and I found out later that he was imprisoned for abusing a number of boys at the School. I later came to the conclusion that he should never have been employed at the school given his background. I was not aware of the [REDACTED] when he was employed at the School.
6. There was some bullying in the school which I believe was only natural in such a setting. I dealt with it as best I could and the way I dealt with depended on the relationship I had with the boy. Some boys had to be punished by getting lower conduct marks which would have impacted on their monetary rewards and weekend leave but others just needed to be talked to and find out what was wrong and why they were behaving poorly.
7. I enjoyed my time at St Patrick's although the work could be challenging. I believe that the Brothers and staff tried their best in difficult circumstance to improve the lives of the boys who we dealt with. I do not and cannot accept that the allegations made against the Brothers and staff are true. I hold them all in

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very high regard for the sacrifices which they made in leaving their own homes to care for the children they served.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed SPT53

Dated 6/9/15

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HIA REF: SPT 53

Witness Name: SPT53

**THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995****WITNESS STATEMENT OF SPT53**

I, SPT53 will say as follows:-

1. I have previously made a statement in relation to my employment at St Patrick's Training School. I have now been made aware of allegations which have been made against me and wish to make a second statement to address those allegations.
2. I am now aware that allegations have been made by HIA384  
When I was advised of his name I initially had no recollection of the boy. I subsequently was advised that this boy was the subject of proceedings after he absconded from the Training School. At this stage I recalled who he was because although I had no direct involvement in the case I do recollect that I drove another member of staff one day and left him at the court to attend the hearing whilst I dealt with some personal matters.
3. It has been alleged that this boy approached me and made a complaint about abuse/bullying which he was supposed to be suffering in the Training School. I can categorically state that I did not receive such a complaint from this boy and I would never respond in the manner stated. I do not recall receiving any report of this nature about this applicant from any teacher or teacher leader who was

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responsible for the day to day running of the education department. I emphatically refute the allegation made against me.

4. I have also been advised that the same boy has made an allegation that I was in a meeting in which he was bullied by senior staff and forced to retract a statement he had made to police about sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of other boys. I never attended any such meeting and never spoke to this boy about any statement he had made to police. The allegation against me is untrue and totally without merit. I would not and have not behaved in such a way.
5. I always did my best for the boys in my care and refute in their entirety all allegations made against me.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed SPT53

Dated 6/9/15



Government of Northern Ireland

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Stormont Belfast, BT4 3SU  
 DUNDONALD HOUSE,  
 100 RIVER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD,  
 BELFAST, BT4 3SU

Telegrams Homeaff Belfast

Telephone Belfast 83240  
650111

The Manager  
 St Patrick's Training  
 School  
 Glen Road  
 Belfast  
 BT11 8BX

Please reply to The Secretary

Your reference

Our reference

W.3290; W.109

Date

Dear Sir

I refer to your letters of 31 August and 13 September 1971 regarding SPT53 your School's

The Ministry of Education has advised that the qualification which SPT53 has now obtained entitles him to be recognised as an in an institution of further education and assuming he has had continuous employment between his 18th and 21st birthdays and 12 years' employment as a between his 21st birthday and his appointment to St Patrick's he should be placed with effect from 1 September 1971 on the maximum point of the teachers' salary scale, £1,740 (under review).

As a qualified teacher he should also, of course, receive the £230 allowance payable to teachers in Training Schools.

Yours faithfully

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

BELFAST, 1

Memo from

THE PRINCIPAL

To SPT53

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE in BUILDING

The official results have now been received and I have pleasure in informing you that you have qualified for the award of the Higher National Certificate in Building.

You will be notified when the Certificates have been received.

DL137

(reported 3:00 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>)

Boy involved -

SPT140

Harassment - Harassment - Harassment  
on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb - morning at approximately  
11:00 p.m. clock.

SPT112

said

A [redacted] offered money 50 p.  
[redacted] he did certain things [redacted] offered money on  
[redacted] occasions - [redacted] has not accepted  
the offer

About 4 weeks ago  
seen to-day 10<sup>th</sup> by the [redacted] + repeated the  
same story

Before Xmas

At 7:00 clock - we left with nothing on  
offered 50 p.

Your choice - (1) Letter of resignation } dismiss him  
(2) bring him to court } 4 p  
(3) solicitor

Did feel [redacted] trousers.  
Leaving swimming pool, caught [redacted] by shoulder  
& pulled him back - put his hand inside  
his trousers & told Paul to take away his  
hand - [redacted] pulled away from him and  
ran back towards the school.



Telephone  
Belfast 610123/8

St. Patrick's Training School

GLEN ROAD,  
BELFAST

BT11 8BX

DL137

I, [Redacted] offer my resignation from my  
post in St. Patrick's as from 10<sup>th</sup> day the twelfth  
day of March 1980. 12/3/80

Signed [Redacted]

DL137

Witnessed [Redacted]

BR26

SPT53





STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: BR42

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): Over 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS:

ADDRESS: St Patricks Training Centre

TO BE COMPLETED WHEN THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of one pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 12th day of June 19 86

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

On Saturday 15 February 1986 while on duty in the chalet at 6.45pm, I told and to have a bath or shower and change into their pyjamas. had a bath and a shower. At 7 pm both boys dressed in their pyjamas came to the boot room for a smoke. Shortly afterwards both boys went absent. It was while looking for them that I discovered them in their bedroom. The door was locked from inside and the lights were off. Both boys were sitting on s bed in a very suspicious manner. had his pyjamas off. I ordered both boys to the TV Lounge. It was while questioning later that he admitted that they were having an indecent relationship. As both boys sleep in the same room I changed to another room. I recorded the incident in the Diary and later informed the

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: BR42



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St. Patrick's Training School

Telephone:  
(0232) 301123/7  
Fax No:  
(0232) 626879

GLEN ROAD,  
BELFAST  
BT11 8BX.

11th November, 1994.

BH/MK

Mr. Bill Gallagher,  
Northern Ireland Office,  
Criminal Justice Services Division,  
Massey House,  
Stoney Road,  
BELFAST BT4 3SX.

Dear Mr. Gallagher,

RE: THE ASSAULT ON A MEMBER OF STAFF ON [REDACTED]

Preliminary enquiries into the incident have revealed the following:

- (a) The assault took place at about 8.45 p.m. on the night of Saturday [REDACTED]
- (b) During that day there were four boys resident in the unit. There were two members of staff on duty i.e.
  1. A female R.S.W. who is qualified, [REDACTED] experience and is employed in a full-time permanent capacity.
  2. A male member of staff who has [REDACTED] and is also employed in a full-time permanent capacity.
- (c) Three of the boys went out to the cinema at about 8.00 p.m. accompanied by the male member of staff.
- (d) The remaining boy and staff member played pool and snooker until the incident occurred.
- (e) During the course of the day and up to the time of the attack there was no incident of a confrontational nature. Indications are that the attack was totally unprovoked.
- (f) The staff member injured is a female. The attack was apparently sustained over a period of about five minutes, it involved the use of a [REDACTED] and attempts to throttle the victim.



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St. Patrick's Training School

GLEN ROAD,  
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- (g) The victim was removed to hospital and the injuries suspected at that time were:
1. broken wrist
  2. suspected skull fracture
  3. suspected fracture of the cheek bone.
  4. bruising to the face and upper body.
- (h) The perpetrator absconded but was apprehended a short time later by staff and taken into police custody. He subsequently appeared in court charged with "Grievous bodily harm with intent".
- (i) A member of [REDACTED] was called, was on the scene immediately after the incident and took charge in relation to the police, hospitalization etc.

A full report will be prepared for the Board of Management based on the statements of all staff concerned.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
SPT53  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]