
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 9th April 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 25)

MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC and MR JOSEPH AIKEN appeared as
Counsel to the Inquiry.

1 Wednesday, 9th April 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 WITNESS SND332 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

5 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. This

6 morning's first witness is SND332. He is "SND332".

7 I have spoken to SND332 and he is keen to maintain the
8 anonymity as far as the Inquiry is prepared to afford
9 it.

10 CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to take the oath or to make
11 an affirmation?

12 **A. Make an affirmation.**

13 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

14 WITNESS SND332 (affirmed)

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

17 MS SMITH: Now good morning, SND332. We have been speaking

18 earlier this morning and you have provided two

19 statements of evidence for the Inquiry. If we could

20 just look at those briefly. They can be found at

21 SND-5626, first of all. Can I just confirm that this is

22 a statement that you drafted for the Inquiry and it is

23 dated 14th November 2013, and if we could scroll down

24 just to the bottom of that --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and you actually signed that --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- on that date and that's your signature under that
4 black rectangle that we see there.

5 Then, secondly, you prepared a statement which you
6 were only able to sign this morning, which is found at
7 SND-16884, and if we can scroll down through that again
8 to the end --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- of the statement, you also say you just signed that
11 this morning in this building. Isn't that correct?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. This is essentially evidence that you want the Inquiry
14 to take into account, but I am going to ask you a number
15 of additional questions in relation these statements --

16 **A. Okay.**

17 Q. -- and also about some other matters that we would like
18 to hear from you about.

19 Now you set out in the first two, three
20 paragraphs of this second statement, the one that's on
21 the screen at the moment, the history of your career.
22 You say that initially in [REDACTED], when you qualified, you
23 -- or when you became a social worker, you were working
24 as a generic trainee social worker and then you
25 qualified in [REDACTED]. Can I just confirm what

1 qualification it was that you gained?

2 **A. Yes. That was a [REDACTED]s**

3 [REDACTED].

4 Q. And you obtained that at [REDACTED]?

5 **A. Essential qualification, yes.**

6 Q. At [REDACTED]

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You say at that time you worked in [REDACTED] as [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] involved in many aspects of social
10 services provision, particularly in relation to
11 childcare. Did you involve you placing children in
12 residential care?

13 **A. That would have happened on several occasions during my**
14 **time as the [REDACTED].**

15 Q. As [REDACTED] would you yourself have visited the
16 residential homes?

17 **A. I personally didn't visit the residential -- one**
18 **residential home I visited was Termonbacca just on one**
19 **occasion, but that was it.**

20 Q. And that was the only involvement you had with
21 Termonbacca during your time --

22 **A. At that time, yes.**

23 Q. At that time. Well, can you -- you left Trust
24 employment in [REDACTED]. Why was that, SND332?

25 **A. I left the employment, because I was, as I say,**

1 a qualified social worker working for the [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] I had a case load of upwards of 70 cases. I was
3 becoming I think an unsafe worker because of the heavy
4 load basically that I had. So I felt that I could
5 not -- no longer work as a social worker in any
6 effective way. In fact, it was dangerous. At the time
7 the director, [REDACTED] said I was
8 basically a circumstance of the system. It was -- he
9 agreed that I did have a heavy case load. At the time
10 I don't think I had any other option.

11 Q. You felt you were worried about the consequences if you
12 continued to work. Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. So you left employment briefly in [REDACTED] and you
15 subsequently applied to the Sisters of Nazareth for
16 employment?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you recall how you applied?

19 A. I think there was an advertisement in the local press.
20 I had an interview. I can't remember -- I think it was
21 just -- I think it was the Mother Superior. I don't
22 think there was anybody else there, and it was a brief
23 interview.

24 Q. And you also say there may be someone else, as there was
25 a diocesan element to the job. Isn't that correct?

1 **A. Yes, there was the Diocesan Adoption Society, which**
2 **I was involved in as well. I was on the committee, yes.**

3 Q. So it is possible there may be -- there may have been
4 a lay person from the Diocesan Adoption Society on the
5 interview?

6 **A. Yes, there could have been, yes. Aye, there could have**
7 **been. I just have no recollection. It's -- it was**
8 **about, what, [REDACTED] ago.**

9 Q. Certainly you worked in -- for the Sisters of Nazareth
10 between [REDACTED], which is
11 a period of [REDACTED].

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Now you had been to Termonbacca once before --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- but when you went there as an employee, what was your
16 first impression of the home?

17 **A. First impression was that -- Termonbacca was also --**
18 **apart from being a children's home was a religious order**
19 **as well. So there was a lot of religious statues and it**
20 **was that sort of sense of that, but once you get beyond**
21 **that, once you get into the units, which were new units**
22 **in comparison to what they had in probably the '60s,**
23 **there was -- there was a good atmosphere. There was lay**
24 **staff and sisters there that I felt -- yes, I felt**
25 **comfortable, yes. I know that somebody coming in the**

1 door and seeing sort of maybe a statue of St. Patrick or
2 whatever it could be off-putting or daunting, but
3 certainly once you got to the units and got to the
4 children, it was -- it was very relaxed and sort of
5 a free atmosphere.

6 Q. The atmosphere has been described by social workers who
7 went there as austere, unwelcoming and not a great place
8 for children.

9 A. Well, those social workers may not have had the
10 opportunity of going into the big units and seeing the
11 children and sitting down with the children. I would
12 have -- during my time in Termonbacca I would have
13 played football with them down in the football pitch
14 just beside the children's home. So I think you have to
15 see beyond the religious paraphernalia and that sort of
16 atmosphere, because the children make their own
17 atmosphere, and when you would sit down amongst maybe
18 15, 16 children, you can feel that.

19 Q. Well, you say you were surprised by the size of the home
20 when you arrived?

21 A. Quite surprised, because you had two units of -- for
22 children from -- I think it was from 5 up to about 16,
23 17. Then you had a nursery. So upwards I think there
24 was 40 plus children. I can't remember exactly the
25 numbers, but it was a large number of children, whereas

1 the thinking in terms of residential care was smaller
2 units, but Termonbacca quite -- quite a large number of
3 children.

4 Q. So you are saying essentially that the social workers
5 who came to the home didn't really get beyond the office
6 setting. Is that correct?

7 A. I don't know if they didn't get beyond it or they didn't
8 want to go beyond it, but certainly they would have
9 been -- they would have been welcome in there, because
10 I have seen social workers actually coming in whilst
11 children were maybe having their tea or coming in from
12 school. Social workers would have come up, and maybe
13 that happened as a result of my presence. I don't know,
14 but certainly they weren't restricted.

15 Q. Well, the Inquiry, as you're aware, has received
16 opposing accounts of life in the home.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. They have heard that -- from some that it was
19 regimented, that it was harsh, that it was cruel, that
20 it was violent. Others have said that they experienced
21 a caring and loving atmosphere. Can you comment on your
22 experience?

23 A. I can -- I can -- I can only comment on -- I was 9.00 to
24 5.00 as well it has to be remembered. So from those
25 hours I would have seen the children coming in from

1 school. I would have been there during the summer
2 holidays, though. It was -- for me the atmosphere was
3 positive. It was good. There was always issues around
4 children, because children do bring issues, particularly
5 children who are coming from really difficult situations
6 and maybe situations where they've been very damaged and
7 neglected. So I think you've got to take that all into
8 account in terms of how you view the children or view
9 the children's home, you know.

10 Q. You talked in your statement about having an induction
11 by a particular nun, and I am going to use the name, but
12 again it can't be used outside the chamber, and this was
13 SR2. You have expanded on that, saying that you believe
14 she was actually instrumental in your employment.

15 A. I think she was, because I think she valued the social
16 work input in relation to what that could do for the
17 children's home itself, but also that there was quite
18 a large number of ex-boys who were -- or ex-residents --
19 sorry -- who were living in the community, and some of
20 them, or perhaps a lot of them, were struggling. So
21 I think she saw maybe the benefits of maybe a male
22 social worker maybe befriending them, but certainly that
23 was an issue.

24 Q. But can I just ask you -- you say that you got
25 an induction from her. What exactly did that involve?

1 A. She -- she would have talked about the units. She would
2 have talked about maybe historically as well. It came
3 from sort of like basically long huts where there was
4 upwards of 70 I think children in two or three huts,
5 from very dire beginnings to like a modern children's
6 home, though it was maybe overly big. She talked about
7 the issues that boys had in relation to living in the
8 community. The children who were coming to the
9 residential unit in Termonbacca at that stage was -- was
10 mainly and mostly children who had a social worker
11 whereas before that there were children coming who were
12 coming from maybe Fahan in Donegal, who were babies
13 moved up to Termonbacca. They didn't have social work
14 involvement. So, you know ...

15 Q. So she basically gave you a little bit about the history
16 --

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. -- and maybe what she hoped that would happen in the
19 future. Is that correct?

20 A. Yes. I think she was hoping that certainly in terms of
21 the older boys that they would have some sort of maybe
22 support. This was -- this was an era before VOYPIC, you
23 know, Voices of Young People in Care, where there was no
24 organisation mandated to help support children who are
25 coming out of residential care. There was nothing there

1 to do that. So in effect some of -- it became a lot of
2 the work I think that I got involved in was with the
3 older boys who were living in the community. This was
4 at a time when the troubles were at their fiercest in
5 Derry. People were living around the Bogside, around --
6 around that area, where it was -- it was difficult
7 times. So there was -- there was a -- sorry. Go on.

8 Q. Yes. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

9 A. There was obviously a necessity to be involved in trying
10 to care for the boys who were coming out of the system,
11 that they can expect some sort of support.

12 Q. Can I ask you: your role wasn't actually set out for you
13 then?

14 A. No.

15 Q. It just sort of evolved into the --

16 A. Evolved as the need developed, you know, in terms of the
17 boys, what they presented to me. Some was about
18 housing, some was about maybe addiction or relationships
19 or it was about just being able -- struggling to manage.
20 If you can imagine, some of these boys did not have
21 access to a brother, sister, cousin, father, mother, you
22 know, were totally on their own. So in effect they --
23 any support you could offer was appreciated.

24 Q. I am going to talk a little bit later about your role
25 with the ex-residents --

1 **A. Okay.**

2 Q. -- but if I may just talk about when you came to
3 Termonbacca, and you say -- as you say, the role
4 evolved. It wasn't sort of set out as to what they
5 expected you to do when they employed you.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You say that you worked 9.00 to 5.00. Did you ever stay
8 overnight in Termonbacca?

9 **A. I think, and again my memory as well, I think I stayed**
10 **one night in Termonbacca. I think it was because**
11 **I think SR2 or one of the sisters was away and I was**
12 **asked to stay over and I stayed over.**

13 Q. Can I ask you, SND332, about what staff there were in
14 Termonbacca apart from yourself? How many nuns do you
15 recollect?

16 **A. There was -- well, I'll go from the kitchen up. There**
17 **was the sister who was looking after the food, the**
18 **preparation. She had two helpers, two lay people, who**
19 **would come in part time. Then there was the staff who**
20 **looked after the children. There would have been**
21 **a sister to each unit. There was three units. There**
22 **was two main units for older children and one nursery,**
23 **where [REDACTED] SR 17 [REDACTED] would have looked after the**
24 **younger children. Then there was SR2 and SR6 would have**
25 **had the other two units.**

1 There would have been -- some of the older boys
2 would have worked in -- one I think worked in the
3 kitchen and two worked on the -- when I say older boys,
4 there was one in their 70s, like, and then there was
5 a younger guy who helped him on the farm.

6 So there's quite a lot there. The staffing would
7 have been -- there was lay staff as well, who were in
8 the process I think of being trained in terms of maybe
9 HNDs and eventually there was one went on to be a social
10 worker. So there was lay staff there as well.

11 Q. And can you remember what numbers of lay staff?

12 A. I think there was about four or five lay staff. Aye,
13 I think about four or five that I can remember. I could
14 be wrong.

15 Q. You are saying that some of the lay staff were in the
16 process of getting certain qualifications?

17 A. I think they were, yes. They were being more and more
18 encouraged to do that I think because it's -- I think
19 ██. So -- yes.

20 Q. In paragraph 12 of your first statement, which isn't on
21 the screen, you talk about your duties. I am going to
22 ask you sort of a little bit about what those were. You
23 say that one of the things you did was work directly
24 with the children. Can I ask what exactly you did with
25 the children?

1 A. If you can imagine, most of the children were coming in
2 from situations of distress basically. They were maybe
3 taken into care forcibly. They could have suffered
4 abuse, be it physical or sexual abuse. They could also
5 have been pining for the parents that they have lost
6 basically. There were some of the children who were
7 very distraught, who were difficult to manage, because
8 of their emotional distress. So it was always important
9 to address the issues where they were at in terms of --
10 there is one particular lad I remember whose mother
11 continually let him down in terms of visiting and didn't
12 visit. He ran away and I knew where he was. He was
13 actually sitting outside his mother's house, and got him
14 and brought him back again, but it was that sort of
15 thing. There was the emotional -- if you can imagine
16 with that amount of children the emotional upheaval in
17 terms of their experiences and how you respond to that
18 was obviously to try and talk about it, but also find
19 ways of if these children need maybe fostering or
20 situations of support, what you can do. So there was
21 always that -- those battles about trying to find ways
22 of helping children in deep distress.

23 Q. And you also said -- I mean, most of these children in
24 your time would have had social work involvement.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And they were reviewed you say on a regular basis.

2 **A. They would have been reviewed by their own social worker**
3 **and that would have been -- the review would have been**
4 **mostly in Termonbacca, where they would have come up to**
5 **Termonbacca and the reviews would have been held there.**

6 Q. Would you --

7 **A. That would have been from Omagh and from Derry and from**
8 **all parts of the north.**

9 Q. And would you have been part of that review process?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You would have sat in on those meetings?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Would the children have been involved in the meetings?

14 **A. I don't think so at the time. I don't think it was --**
15 **it would have been a good idea, but I don't think it was**
16 **done then. I have no recollection of any child being**
17 **actually involved in it.**

18 Q. Do you remember where the review meetings took place?

19 **A. The review would have been in the office, in my office.**

20 Q. Can I just ask you -- just pausing there, ask you where
21 exactly your office was located in the building?

22 **A. The office would have been -- as you came to the main**
23 **door it would have been about 20 metres just along the**
24 **corridor, just at the edge of the corridor. So it would**
25 **have been ...**

1 Q. Some of us have actually been to Termonbacca as it is
2 today, and there is the old building, which the children
3 have described as the nuns' part of Termonbacca.

4 **A. This would be where the old building meets the new
5 building. There would have been an office just there.**

6 Q. Beyond the chapel?

7 **A. Aye, just beyond the chapel.**

8 Q. Along that corridor?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Can I just ask: were the only one who had an office?

11 **A. I think so. I don't know about upstairs, about the
12 nuns' quarters, because, you know, I was never there.
13 So ...**

14 CHAIRMAN: Can I just intervene? As you go down the
15 corridor there are various things that open off to the
16 left nowadays. Have you been back recently?

17 **A. I have been back about two years ago. [REDACTED] got
18 a blessing there.**

19 CHAIRMAN: There's a quite large room that is now used as
20 a bookshop and sells various types of things.

21 **A. It is almost --**

22 CHAIRMAN: Is it as far down the corridor as that?

23 **A. It is not that far down the corridor. It's almost at
24 the beginning of the corridor and it's in the corner.
25 It may be that room you are talking about where the**

1 **books are, because it was --**

2 CHAIRMAN: There is a reception desk with a smaller office
3 behind it. Is that it?

4 **A. Aye, I think that's the one. It was a small office,**
5 **aye.**

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes, because the other room is quite large, isn't
7 it?

8 **A. Aye, aye. There was another room where they kept the**
9 **register for the children.**

10 MS SMITH: There was another sort of office too --

11 **A. There was another, yes.**

12 Q. -- in that area. Apart from the regular reviews you say
13 that you were involved in organising as well as
14 attending the reviews. How did you do that? Would
15 there have been a need for you to contact social workers
16 outside the normal regular review?

17 **A. Yes, of course, because as children develop, their needs**
18 **change, but also issues can happen, you know, and**
19 **incidents can happen. So a review as quick as -- could**
20 **be arranged quickly, you know.**

21 Q. One of the other things that you said you were involved
22 in, SND332, was staff development. Can I ask you in
23 three and a half years what exactly that entailed for
24 you?

25 **A. For me that was to try to encourage people first off to**

1 get qualifications, to be trained up, to add to their
2 skills, to add to their knowledge. There was some of
3 the older staff found that maybe a bit more difficult,
4 but the younger staff certainly it was in their
5 interests as well as in the home's interests for people
6 to be qualified.

7 Q. And --

8 A. So that's where the encouragement came from, because you
9 needed qualified staff.

10 Q. And how did you encourage them?

11 A. Just by providing opportunities in terms of just details
12 and maybe -- maybe sometimes information; talking, for
13 instance, about the CQSW course. It wasn't inaccessible
14 for anybody. They could start that process, and then
15 there was a scheme I think where they could be employed
16 whilst they were doing the course. They could be
17 seconded. So ...

18 Q. You did say you recall one lay member of staff actually
19 went on and got a C... --

20 A. Yes, she got her qualification, yes.

21 Q. Can you recall who that was?

22 A. [REDACTED]. I can't remember her name, to be
23 honest, [REDACTED]

24 Q. One of the other things that you do talk about is that
25 your duties also involved helping find foster

1 placements. Now just to be clear here, we have had
2 a number of children who have said that they were placed
3 with families, for example, the summer holidays, and
4 then came back into Termonbacca. Were you aware of that
5 procedure?

6 **A. Yes, I've been aware of that from some of the older boys**
7 **who said they would have gone out with a family, say**
8 **a family from, say, Dungiven who would have taken them**
9 **out for Christmas or taken them out for a holiday. It**
10 **was like a one-off thing. In many ways it is not good**
11 **practice, because it was like showing you a small slice**
12 **of what life could be like and then bringing you back**
13 **into the residential unit again. So in ways that really**
14 **wasn't good practice. What you were looking for was**
15 **permanent fostering, but those issues again, the**
16 **fostering team wasn't up and running as well, if you can**
17 **imagine that. There is a fostering team now. There is**
18 **more services there that could -- that could have maybe**
19 **helped in the process of identifying proper foster**
20 **placements.**

21 **Q. How difficult a task was it to find proper foster**
22 **placements?**

23 **A. Very difficult, you know, but it could happen.**
24 **I remember one couple fostered I think it was a family**
25 **of seven.**

1 Q. And is it correct that foster parents, aside from going
2 through Social Services, came directly to the Sisters of
3 Nazareth looking to take children?

4 **A. I am not sure how that would have worked. I have no**
5 **evidence that they did -- that that happened, that**
6 **people would come and take children unbeknownst to**
7 **anybody. I think there may have been some sort of**
8 **procedure.**

9 Q. Now just coming on, you have said that a significant
10 part of your work for the Sisters of Nazareth was
11 working with the ex-residents.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You have said that the initial involvement -- your
14 initial involvement in this role came as a result of
15 SR2's concern for these old boys.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Can I just ask what exact -- how that came about, how
18 you came to be involved with them, first of all?

19 **A. There was clearly -- I don't know the exact numbers, but**
20 **there was a lot of boys in the sort of teens, 20s, 30s,**
21 **some people in their 40s, because Termonbacca goes back**
22 **to almost the start of the century. Some of the boys**
23 **weren't doing too well. They were -- I remember SR2**
24 **directing me to where she thought there was two guys**
25 **living in, and I remember going down -- it was just off**

1 Bishop Street -- and into a house, and there was four or
2 five of the boys lying in sofas, and it was just awful,
3 awful condition, and it was that sort of prompted me and
4 I think, you know, coming back and saying to the sister,
5 "Look, something needs to be done". I was allowed time
6 basically out to try to support and help some of the
7 older boys, because a lot of them were maybe involved in
8 addictions or maybe involved in just -- some of them
9 were -- were lost in many ways, you know, because if you
10 can imagine with no mother, brother, father, sister,
11 just you have no roots. It's very difficult to survive
12 unless you are very strong and residential care doesn't
13 make you strong no matter how good it is. So they
14 needed that support I think and I was allowed -- allowed
15 that time to help.

16 Q. You're saying that you helped with them. You helped
17 mentor them, helping them find employment, housing,
18 helping them with tracing relatives and dealing with
19 their addictions, if that was the case.

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. You say that they were struggling to adjust in the
22 outside world. Do you accept that, given what you
23 witnessed with them, that there was -- that they were
24 essentially ill-prepared for life after care?

25 A. Yes. Yes, they were. I don't think -- if you had

1 a proper training period for children about to leave
2 care, it might have helped, but in many instances
3 I think with some of the boys it wouldn't have helped,
4 because I think their problems -- because they were like
5 basically rootless as well, they didn't have any
6 experience of family. They were coming from a far
7 distant past, you know, in terms of where they start off
8 basically to try to make a life after care and I found
9 that more and more of my time was with some of the boys
10 and -- yes.

11 Q. Can I also ask you just how you got in contact with the
12 boys? Did you go to them or did they come to you in
13 Termonbacca?

14 A. Once -- once I think it became known that there was
15 somebody in Termonbacca who they maybe could talk to or
16 whatever there was quite a few who just came up and
17 became regular visitors basically in terms of what they
18 were dealing with. A lot of them were doing okay, were
19 doing great. Sometimes they just needed a wee bit of
20 support. Some of them wanted to maybe try to trace
21 their roots. One or two were successful in that, but
22 others were -- just needed that -- maybe someone to turn
23 to when life was getting a bit more difficult as well.
24 I think I provided in some -- to some degree I provided
25 maybe just a shoulder to cry on sometimes.

1 Q. And can I ask you just what was the Sisters' attitude to
2 them coming back to the home?

3 A. SR2 was very positive. Some of the other sisters
4 I think maybe were less so, but they would have tended
5 to come to me or SR2. So in that sense it was -- it was
6 important I think for the Order to recognise that there
7 was these guys, these young guys and older people as
8 well, who were living in the community and weren't doing
9 too well and had bad experiences and they needed
10 support. They still needed support.

11 Q. Well, can I just ask: did the work that you then engaged
12 in with these ex-residents, did that interfere in any
13 way with your work with the children who were still in
14 Termonbacca?

15 A. I don't think so. I hope not. Maybe it did, because
16 there was some times I was -- I was pulled away. There
17 was a -- I remember a few times I would have been maybe
18 down the barrack with this particular young man, needing
19 to bail him out basically. There was things like that.
20 Maybe I did spend more time with them than I should have
21 done, but I don't feel that I regret it, you know.

22 Q. Can I also say to you that one of the things that the
23 Inquiry has heard a lot about is that not only older
24 children who were resident in the home but a number of
25 ex-residents were involved in the supervision of the

1 younger children and that they played a significant role
2 in the management of the younger children, and as
3 a result the Inquiry has had complaints both of physical
4 and sexual abuse by those older boys and ex-residents.
5 Had you any sense of that during your time in
6 Termonbacca?

7 **A. I didn't -- I never seen an older boy being asked to**
8 **take control or take care of someone else. I've never**
9 **seen that. I've never experienced that. I would be**
10 **really surprised if that happened and shocked.**

11 Q. SND332, you were there from 9.00 to 5.00. Is it
12 possible that in the evenings they may have been asked
13 to do that?

14 **A. They could have been, yes.**

15 Q. You also, as you say, were involved with these
16 ex-residents and you maintained a relationship with many
17 of them, and the Inquiry has seen a number of
18 photographs of you at various gatherings. One
19 photograph -- I am not going to pull it up -- but it is
20 described as "A gathering of the clan" and you are
21 identified in that photograph, and you also attended
22 weddings.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Is there anything you would like to tell the Inquiry
25 about that?

1 A. Well, if you can imagine, some of the children -- some
2 of the older boys when they do get married, they had
3 very few family. So their family was about Termonbacca
4 and it was about whoever was there. Like SR2 was there
5 at a couple of weddings too, and it was important to be
6 there as well. You were witness to that and it was
7 certainly a privilege. Some of them I would still have
8 contact with, who would still call into the centre where
9 I work at the minute and give me a hard time and a bit
10 of craic, you know. So I built up a relationship with
11 quite a few, but there's still some of the boys that
12 still struggle and -- yes.

13 Q. You essentially still have maintained contact?

14 A. I still -- I still -- I would stop with many of them,
15 because I work now in [REDACTED] where a lot of them
16 have moved to. So I would be -- I would see quite
17 a few.

18 Q. One person who has spoken to the Inquiry has
19 a recollection of his foster placement breaking down and
20 him actually going to you and staying overnight in your
21 house. Have you any recollection of that?

22 A. That could have happened if it's the -- if it's the guy
23 ...

24 Q. You can say the name.

25 A. HIA60?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. All right. HIA60 would have been very close to us,
3 myself and my late wife, and she was -- we would have --
4 HIA60 would have called in our house and we would have
5 chatted. That could have happened. I have no
6 recollection of that happening, but I seen him there
7 about a month ago. He came in and sort of grabbed me in
8 [REDACTED] and wrestled me to the ground, a bit of
9 craic. That's the sort of -- that's the sort of fun he
10 enjoys. He's a -- he's a -- he's a very good guy --
11 sort of guy. He would be welcome in my house anytime.

12 Q. Well, you talk there about where your office was in
13 Termonbacca. Were the nuns always in and around that
14 area or not?

15 A. Sometimes I never knew where they were, to be honest,
16 because you'd the building where the nuns were and then
17 you had the children's units and -- I don't know.
18 I think they were in the main building, their own
19 quarters.

20 Q. Apart from the nuns' quarters, did you have access to
21 all areas of Termonbacca?

22 A. Aye, yes.

23 Q. And can I ask you did you seek the children out or did
24 they come to see you? How did -- how did you interact
25 with them?

1 A. Well, I know there was one girl who said that I was
2 always playing football with the children. I am proud
3 to admit to that, because that's part of the work, but
4 she thought that I didn't have enough time and maybe
5 I didn't. Maybe -- maybe I was maybe all over the
6 place, but if you can imagine the amount of children and
7 the need, and it would be very difficult to go around
8 everybody and to try and meet that need, but certainly
9 I was available in the office when I was there and would
10 have been there quite a lot -- quite a lot.

11 Q. There wasn't a set time where you sat in the office and
12 said, "Anybody needs to come and talk to me, come and
13 talk to me between, say, 4.00 and 4.30"?

14 A. No. They could have done that -- they could have done
15 that outside in the football pitch or the play area or
16 in the office or up in -- sitting in the corner of the
17 main sitting room.

18 Q. What I'm trying to get at was there was no formalised --
19 formal time for them to come if they had a problem. It
20 was just a matter of you were approachable.

21 A. They could arrange it, aye, if they want to talk to me,
22 or if I felt that maybe -- you know, sometimes you see
23 a reaction in a child or you see a child looking very,
24 very sad or troubled. You will make it your business to
25 try and find an opportunity to talk to them. So ...

1 Q. Was there somewhere you could do that in private?

2 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

3 Q. I take it that would have been your office?

4 **A. Aye, the office or in different rooms off the main**
5 **living quarters.**

6 Q. Is it fair to say, though, apart from the holiday
7 periods, that normally weekdays you would have been
8 there for the children for effectively an hour's window
9 between when they got back from school --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and when you left at 5.00?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Can I also ask then about --

14 **A. I would have -- I would have gone on holidays with them**
15 **as well. I remember going on holiday with my family**
16 **along with them down to Greencastle and we spent four or**
17 **five days with them.**

18 Q. So you had greater interaction than that one-hour period
19 is what you are saying?

20 **A. Oh, aye.**

21 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about record-keeping in
22 the home?

23 **A. Okay.**

24 Q. Can I ask you what records you yourself compiled?

25 **A. I remember there was reviews and copies of reviews.**

1 I think you showed me some of those reviews. There were
2 records that social workers kept where they had their
3 three-monthly I think reviews. We got a copy of those
4 as well, because we would be involved in that. That
5 would be it basically. It would be about recording of
6 reviews or incidents as well. If there were major
7 incidents in a child's life over a period, then that
8 would be recorded too.

9 Q. You talked I think about the registers that were kept by
10 the Sisters. They were kept in a room in the house. Is
11 that right?

12 A. Aye. This would have been helpful when -- I would have
13 got quite a lot of phone calls even from Australia where
14 you would get a letter from Australia saying, "Can you
15 help me find my roots, my mother and father, that I was
16 in Termonbacca in 1930" or ...

17 So there was a big register, massive, massive book.
18 It went back to the very beginning of Termonbacca, and
19 it started off with the name of the children, then the
20 place of birth, baptism lines and I think maybe
21 a priest's name I think and that would be it. So you
22 maybe had a townland. So in many cases that was all you
23 had to go on was maybe a townland.

24 What I would have done would have been to write to
25 the local parish priest of that townland and ask for

1 information about -- possible information about a
2 certain named person obviously. It was really difficult
3 to do that, but the records -- that was the main record,
4 you know, of actually when somebody was coming into the
5 centre -- or coming into the unit. They would be
6 registered in this big thick register.

7 Q. And that was essentially the only records that were
8 kept, sort of admission and discharge records?

9 A. Aye. It was admission, baptism, mother, name of mother.
10 I think there was the name of mother. So that was
11 helpful, and that would have been it.

12 Q. What about you yourself? Your records then are
13 essentially compiled of your notes of the review
14 meetings. Is that right?

15 A. How they were -- how they were progressing, issues
16 around maybe if there was intention to foster.
17 I just -- other professionals. There would be records
18 of that as well.

19 Q. What about the nuns? Did they keep any records that you
20 are aware of?

21 A. I think they kept -- they kept a lot of it, aye. They
22 would -- not just me. I think they did. I can't
23 remember reading the records. I am not sure if I did,
24 but I just don't know.

25 Q. Were you aware of them keeping records?

1 A. I think they must have kept records, you know. I would
2 be shocked if they didn't.

3 Q. Can you say if you remember what happened to the records
4 when a child left the home?

5 A. Well, no.

6 Q. Or --

7 A. Are you talking about how long that file would have been
8 kept for? I don't know.

9 Q. Did the records go with the child or did they stay --

10 A. If the child was going to -- maybe to -- maybe the
11 social work records would be passed on to somebody if
12 they were going to a different area, a different
13 district or different children's home, which could
14 happen. That would have been passed on.

15 Q. What about the records -- your records when you left the
16 home? Do you have any idea what would have happened to
17 those?

18 A. No. I presumed they would have been sent to maybe
19 Nazareth House for storage, because -- excuse me --
20 after I left there was a matter of I think a year, two
21 years. The home was running down. They were getting
22 fewer and fewer referrals because of the increase in
23 foster placements becoming available, but also it was
24 recognised that small units were better.

25 CHAIRMAN: Before we go on, I am not clear, SND332, whether

1 you're -- when you use this common expression "would
2 have done" you are simply assuming that that happened,
3 because you didn't know whether the nuns kept records?

4 **A. I am not sure just. I just don't have any memory of**
5 **that, no.**

6 CHAIRMAN: So when you say "they would have done", you are
7 simply assuming, if the records existed, then the
8 natural thing to do, if a child moved to another home,
9 would be to send the records with them.

10 **A. That's right.**

11 CHAIRMAN: But you have no idea whether the records were
12 kept or not?

13 **A. No.**

14 MS SMITH: Just physically where were your own notes kept?

15 **A. In a filing cabinet in the office I had as you come into**
16 **that corridor.**

17 Q. If the nuns did keep records, did they share those with
18 you? Did you ever remember a nun saying, "Well,
19 I've made a note of this" or anything like that?

20 **A. I can't remember. I don't have any memory of that.**

21 Q. But you had -- you talked about social workers coming in
22 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and we have heard from two of them, SND484 and
25 SND465, who have given evidence just this week to the

1 Inquiry, and they would describe the relationship they
2 had with you as professional and very good, and would
3 you agree with that?

4 **A. Yes. I have worked with those colleagues for a number**
5 **of years, yes.**

6 Q. And you would have been present at the review meetings
7 in respect of the children?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Just trying to tease out maybe something from your
10 memory, at those review meetings were the Sisters
11 present? Was a nun present?

12 **A. The Sister who was in charge of the unit would be**
13 **present, yes.**

14 Q. And would she have had some notes with her that she
15 might have referred to in the course of the review
16 meeting, for example.

17 **A. I can't remember. The Sister's notes I don't remember**
18 **actually seeing, but I believe that they were there.**
19 **Maybe I would like to believe they were there, but**
20 **that's how uncertain I am. I'm just not -- I wouldn't**
21 **say no, there were no notes, but there could have been.**

22 Q. Okay. I am going to look at some documents in a short
23 while, but I will leave it for a moment.

24 **A. Okay.**

25 Q. Were you aware before you took up your post that many of

1 the residents had not been placed by Social Services?

2 **A. No. I had very little knowledge of Termonbacca apart**
3 **from that it was a children's home. I know that there**
4 **was -- living in the vicinity of Termonbacca, I would**
5 **have seen the boys coming out of Termonbacca sometimes**
6 **in rows going to school. So that would have been the**
7 **only contact, and then I knew from experience and,**
8 **I mean, also from talking to the boys as well that**
9 **sometimes they would get a hard time in school because**
10 **they were coming from Termonbacca. That was their**
11 **experience. So no.**

12 **Q. You talk in one of your statements -- in the second**
13 **statement really -- about what you describe as the low**
14 **per capita cost given to the home by the Health Board**
15 **and Department of Health & Social Services. What did**
16 **you know about that? How did you know about that? Was**
17 **that something the nuns told you?**

18 **A. I think I remember asking SR2, "What does it -- what**
19 **does it take per capita, you know, per head for, say,**
20 **a month or whatever?" It was like some ludicrous amount**
21 **like £7 or £8 or something for a child. I remember**
22 **being shocked, but I don't remember the exact figure,**
23 **but I remember being shocked as to how little that was**
24 **provided.**

25 **Q. You accepted the funding was a matter for the Board and**

1 senior nuns. Were you aware of any discussions between,
2 for example, the Assistant Director of Social Services
3 in charge of Childcare within the Board and the nuns?

4 Do you ever --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. You wouldn't have had any role to play in that?

7 **A. I wasn't a party to that -- to those sort of meetings.**

8 Q. You also said you believe that greater funding would
9 have improved the staff/child ratios.

10 **A. That is right. That is right.**

11 Q. Have you a particular reason for saying that or is that
12 just something that you feel?

13 **A. It is something that I feel in terms of the staff
14 intensity for a start. You know, you could -- you could
15 attract more staff. You could attract even, you know,
16 better qualified staff as well. You know, the options
17 are endless, you know. The facility could be changed
18 better. It could have been -- it could have been made
19 more child friendly from opening the door. All sorts of
20 things could have been done.**

21 Q. You said in your statement -- in one of your statements
22 that you weren't aware of any external monitoring from
23 the Health Board, but you were aware that DHSS personnel
24 visited the home. What can you tell the Inquiry about
25 that?

1 **A.** It was -- I remember just that once there was this
2 visit. I don't know if it was an announced or
3 unannounced visit, and I think there was a sort of
4 flurry of panic or something. I don't know. These
5 three people came in, and I didn't -- I didn't meet
6 them. I wasn't even asked to meet them. They discussed
7 the home and the children with the Mother Superior and
8 maybe one of the nuns -- I am not sure even to this day
9 -- and then left again. I really don't know what was
10 discussed or what level to. I know RQIA now would be --
11 would be very -- in terms of day care where I am
12 involved in at the minute they come in and they are very
13 thorough in what they do and it's very open and it's
14 very overt. There is nothing hidden, but this seemed to
15 be just -- I don't know -- I don't even know if the
16 people who came in talked to a child. I don't think so,
17 but again I could be wrong.

18 **Q.** Can I -- this was the only time that you recollect
19 anybody from outside --

20 **A.** Yes --

21 **Q.** -- the home coming to visit?

22 **A.** -- in a capacity -- they were from the Department.
23 I knew that.

24 **Q.** You don't even know the names of the people?

25 **A.** No.

1 Q. No. Can I ask also -- one of the things that we have
2 asked several of the boys was if they ever remembered
3 any senior nuns visiting. Do you ever remember that
4 happening at all in those [REDACTED] you
5 were there?

6 A. There was -- there was -- no, I think there was -- there
7 was a Mother -- a Mother -- the different sort of levels
8 of -- I can't remember. I think there was one, but it
9 was just a day visit or something. Mother General
10 visited. I think the Mother General visited, but
11 I didn't -- I wasn't speaking to her. So ...

12 Q. Well, can I ask you -- you had, you say, talked about
13 discussions with staff and one of the things that you
14 talked about was encouraging them to staff development
15 to get qualifications. What other things, what other
16 issues would have arisen in your discussions with the
17 staff?

18 A. Just maybe clarifying issues around children, and maybe
19 some of the staff weren't too happy, and I can
20 understand, you know, from people's perspective, about
21 the older boys coming in, you know, because you don't
22 want an open door policy where older boys suddenly take
23 over everything. It is dangerous. There are issues of
24 safety for children. It was talking to staff in ways
25 that were to try and get them skilled in relation to

1 working with children. It was encouraging that and
2 hopefully being a -- being a role model in terms of what
3 I was saying, what I was doing in terms of the work with
4 not only the children but also with the boys who were in
5 the community.

6 Q. Sorry. SND332, I think we are trying to record
7 everything you are saying. Could you maybe --

8 A. **Sorry. Am I talking too quick?**

9 Q. No, no. Could you maybe just move the microphone
10 towards you slightly?

11 A. **Oh, sorry. Sorry. Sorry.**

12 Q. I think our stenographer is having a little difficulty
13 hearing you.

14 Can I also then just -- you have talked about this
15 particular nun, SR2.

16 A. **Yes.**

17 Q. She is -- she was effectively -- in modern terms might
18 be your line manager -- is that correct -- or she was
19 your main contact?

20 A. **I know there was the Mother Superior, who was, you know,
21 in charge of everything basically, but for me SR2 was --
22 was the person who was in charge of the children in the
23 home and -- yes.**

24 Q. And you worked closely with her. Is that correct?

25 A. **Very closely, because I found that you were knocking**

1 an open door in terms of just changes and understanding
2 of children, and working with the older boys were trying
3 to form that -- you know that aftercare sort of view of
4 childcare as well. You need to look after these
5 children when they leave care. Yes. I would have a lot
6 of time for her.

7 Q. You say that that was -- the aftercare thing was
8 a growing issue --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- in her mind in any event.

11 A. Aye. There would have been in sort of recent times
12 VOYPIC, Voice of Young People in Care, and there is
13 dedicated social workers now to work with children who
14 have left the care system. That wasn't there at the
15 time. So what you were doing, you were trying to
16 develop a system yourself basically.

17 Q. You say that -- sorry.

18 A. So it was a bit crude in terms of just what you were
19 doing, but it was -- it was all that was available.

20 Q. You say that she was particularly anxious to have the
21 social work input into the home --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- in relation to both the children and the staff.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how do you think -- how did that manifest itself?

1 How did she show that she was anxious to do that?

2 **A. I think -- I think the fact that social workers -- and**
3 **I think social workers became much more welcoming or**
4 **welcomed -- sorry -- to the -- to the units. Some of**
5 **them would have said that to me, that, you know, they**
6 **feel like they can come and -- just come and visit me**
7 **even without even ringing up and saying can they come,**
8 **that there was that sort of freedom. So I think she was**
9 **aware of that and I think that was appreciated.**

10 **Q. So there was a change from what was --**

11 **A. A change -- a change in the sense that this was more**
12 **open. There was a person -- that people didn't have to**
13 **ring up, "Sister, can I come up and talk to you or talk**
14 **to SND332?", that they could ring me directly. That**
15 **would have happened without anybody's permission. You**
16 **know, social workers would have come in unannounced even**
17 **and said, "Look, can I have a chat?"**

18 **Q. Just in terms of the aftercare role that you were**
19 **engaged in what -- how -- what discussion was there**
20 **within Termonbacca about that? Was that just between**
21 **you and SR2? Was that just how informally it arose or**
22 **was there anything more structured within the home?**

23 **A. Within the home, no. I think that was -- that was --**
24 **that was -- that was SR2 acknowledging that there is --**
25 **there was a whole -- I don't know how many, but there**

1 was a large number of boys and men who were, you know,
2 in their 20s, who were struggling in the community.
3 Some of them would come back, would be saying that, that
4 they are struggling. Some of them would be coming back
5 looking for information about parents. Some would maybe
6 be hitting the news maybe -- maybe in terms of maybe
7 addictions or something like that. So it was -- it was
8 something that the Sisters had to be involved in, that
9 aftercare, because these children were reared in
10 Termonbacca -- no -- sorry -- maybe from Fahan,
11 Termonbacca as babies, Termonbacca, then leave. The
12 only mother and the only mothering and parent they knew
13 was Termonbacca and the nuns. That's the only one.
14 That's the only parents they knew. So you couldn't
15 ignore that. You shouldn't ignore that, that this is
16 where -- this is where their roots were. This is where
17 they would try and congregate or come when they were in
18 need or in pain or whatever. So it would be ludicrous
19 to try to stop children or -- sorry -- older children
20 coming back to the place that they only -- that's the
21 only place they ever knew.

22 Q. This arrangement then for looking after these older
23 boys, this was not something that was ever raised by
24 DHSS personnel with the Sisters of Nazareth to your
25 knowledge?

1 **A. No, no, no.**

2 Q. Or did the Sisters of Nazareth see it as a legal
3 requirement or was it more of a "something we ought to
4 do"?

5 **A. No, it was -- it was -- it was -- I think it was**
6 **inevitable. It was something you could -- you could not**
7 **resist, because these boys were coming knocking on the**
8 **door and saying, "Look, I need help. I need support.**
9 **I need information".**

10 There was one guy that I remember with SR2 going to
11 ██████████ because he was getting out of it. He had
12 been through different institutions and a very, very
13 troubled life, and she tried to help him get
14 accommodation through some guy who offered accommodation
15 for him on a farm, and it was -- there would have been
16 nobody to do that unless she had come and responded to
17 -- to him at the time. So, you know, you have got to
18 remember that, that that is -- that was part of what she
19 felt needed to be done and I certainly supported that.

20 Q. Well, were you yourself aware that there would have been
21 an obligation on Social Services to befriend and advise
22 the children who had left care unless they were
23 satisfied that this was being done by the nuns?

24 **A. I am not sure where the onus and responsibility was on**
25 **Social Services to look after -- you are talking about**

1 young people from, say, 18 to 40 who were struggling in
2 the community. You know, many of them struggling,
3 others doing really well, but many, many struggling, but
4 there was no -- I don't think there was any sort of onus
5 on Social Services to get involved in those groups until
6 maybe the VOYPIC picture came on, where people were
7 dedicated to looking after children who have experienced
8 care and are moving out into the community and should be
9 prepared for that. So there was a realisation from
10 organisations like VOYPIC and Social Services that you
11 needed to do this.

12 Q. But at the time you were involved in Termonbacca you
13 certainly weren't aware that there was any such
14 obligation?

15 A. No, no. There was a group of men I think in Termonbacca
16 who were like St. Vincent de Paul who would have done --
17 you know, the nuns might have been, "Go and look for
18 accommodation for so-and-so. He is going to come out
19 maybe at 17. Can you find accommodation for him?" It
20 would be that sort of -- that sort of -- random instead
21 of something which was prepared, planned, the child
22 prepared for going out into the world and -- yes.

23 Q. You are saying that you have -- you had a lot of time
24 for SR2. Can I ask you what would you say were her
25 strengths or her weaknesses in working with children in

1 residential care?

2 **A. Her strengths was her compassion and her ability to**
3 **recognise need when she saw that need and she responded.**
4 **She wouldn't be afraid to rock the boat. In terms of**
5 **our own organisation as well she had a direction I think**
6 **in terms of social work. She wanted [REDACTED]**

7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] **There**
9 **was -- there was -- sometimes she could be pig-headed.**
10 **She could -- you know, what she wanted, you know, she**
11 **pushed and she got there. Other times I think she was**
12 **frustrated, not just by the nuns but just by the system**
13 **when she seen some young men particularly in her**
14 **experience that she knew. You know, several of them**
15 **committed suicide. I have been at a few funerals of**
16 **some of the ex-Termonbacca boys, and I know what it is**
17 **to maybe have reared somebody and then see it doesn't**
18 **work. This child has maybe committed suicide when they**
19 **are 20, and what has happened? What has caused that?**
20 **She was a deep thinker. Yes.**

21 **Q. You are aware, SND332, the Inquiry has received a number**
22 **of complaints about her.**

23 **A. Yes, yes.**

24 **Q. It has been said that she beat children using implements**
25 **such as a kettle flex, or a stick, or a belt and that**

1 she inspected boys' underwear. Have you any comments to
2 make the Inquiry about that?

3 A. I have absolutely no knowledge of SR2 being like that.
4 I don't know if it was -- if that was early stage when
5 they were -- because I think if you can imagine when
6 they were in their huts, what was it like for a nun to
7 look after 60 boys? You know, what sort of -- does that
8 do to your head? I don't know. I am not making excuses
9 for that. All I am saying is this is my experience of
10 SR2 and that's the only experience I have.

11 Q. Well, can I ask you what you can tell the Inquiry about
12 the other nuns who were there during your time there?

13 A. Well --

14 Q. What do -- what are your recollections of them?

15 A. Some of them were -- were decent people. Sometimes you
16 felt that they were sort of hemmed in by just the system
17 that they had, you know, because of -- when you are
18 working in a children's unit, you have to be there. You
19 have to be there 100%. Sometimes they were away doing
20 maybe retreats or taking, you know -- they had other
21 duties, other responsibilities maybe to the Order that
22 maybe clashed sometimes. I don't think that was good,
23 you know. Maybe some of the sisters would say that's
24 what they bought into, but it may not have been good in
25 terms of childcare, but that's just my opinion.

1 Q. One of the things that you say in your statement was
2 that you had no recollection of anyone stating they were
3 abused in the home, and there are a number of people who
4 have said things to us about that. One of them is
5 a person who is going to come to speak to the Inquiry
6 but has given us a statement. If we could just look at
7 this, it is SND-1686 at paragraph 24. If that could be
8 put up. It says:

9 "A social worker called", and your name is there,
10 "used to come and talk to us. He knew all of this was
11 going on because we spoke to him. I specifically told
12 him about all the abuse. He was good to us and he would
13 bring us out to his family for dinner. I don't know
14 where he is now, but I think he left social work since,
15 probably because nobody was doing anything about the
16 abuse. He was very good. He would come to our houses
17 and talk to us if we were going through a rough time."

18 Now I have identified that person to you earlier
19 this morning.

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 Q. Can I ask you what your comment is on that paragraph?

22 **A. I have never ever -- I don't believe -- I have no**
23 **recollection of that person telling me that there was**
24 **abuse going on. This seems to be at that time, because**
25 **he would have been in his 20s when he was -- when I was**

1 in Termonbacca. He would have been easily in his 20s,
2 maybe 25, 26. So it wasn't in Termonbacca that he was
3 saying this. I don't know where it was. I just have no
4 -- no memory of that.

5 Q. Do you have any memory of any of the boys telling you
6 anything?

7 A. Some of the boys when out, particularly maybe at
8 a wedding when you were getting drunk, they would have
9 talked about other boys in terms of peer abuse trying it
10 on. Now I don't want to mention names, because
11 literally people were drinking. It was like that. They
12 were saying it in the sense that they weren't saying to
13 me, "You do something about it", but it was like -- that
14 was -- these are guys in their 20s and 30s, and
15 I remember they mentioned some names, but it's -- it's
16 --

17 Q. It's not something you want to repeat?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. But you were aware -- certainly the Inquiry is aware of
20 one untoward incident involving a nun and a boy.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. We talked about this earlier. That person was HIA69 --
23 again the name not to be used outside the chamber -- and
24 SR6. If we could look at SND-2223, first of all,
25 please, you see this is a document -- this is coming

1 back to the issue about record-keeping, SND332.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You see it is headed "Internal Case Review" and there is
4 a handwritten date, [REDACTED] Again it has been
5 redacted to disguise people's names, but, first of all,
6 is that your handwriting?

7 **A. Well, it's too good for my handwriting.**

8 Q. Is it possible that this was compiled by one of the
9 nuns?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And can you remember -- you see there that it says the
12 responsibility for this particular child was
13 **[REDACTED] SND 484** ?

14 **A. Aye, SND484.**

15 Q. And the child was in the house or group **[REDACTED]** ?

16 **A. That would have been SR142's.**

17 Q. SR142?

18 **A. There was a SR142.**

19 Q. Right? At the time that you were there?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. So it's possible that SR142 may have filled this in?

22 **A. Yes, that could have been. There certainly was a SR142.**

23 Q. You have said that the nuns who were in charge of the
24 children, though, were SR2 --

25 **A. SR2 and SR6, but there was SR6's group and -- SR6 took**

1 **over SR142's group or vice versa around that time. I'm**
2 **-- I'm not sure.**

3 Q. I mean, this looks to me to be "██████████" rather
4 than "SR142's". Is it possible that the nuns gave the
5 two units named after a saint, although there was
6 a particular nun in charge of that group, and that
7 a child was placed in ██████████ group looked after by
8 --

9 **A. It could be -- no, it could be that.**

10 Q. You are not clear on that?

11 **A. No, I am not.**

12 Q. Certainly this is not a document you would have had any
13 role in filling in in your role as social worker?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Can we then just go then to page SND-2223?

16 **A. This is -- oh, sorry. No, it is okay. Go ahead.**

17 Q. Did you want to say something about --

18 **A. No, no, no. It's just I looked at the date. I have got**
19 **it wrong. It's okay.**

20 Q. Can we look at SND-22... -- sorry -- SND-2231? This may
21 be a document with which you are familiar in the sense
22 of the format. You see it is "Western Health & Social
23 Services Board, Londonderry, Limavaday and Strabane
24 District, Case Report", and it's on a particular family.
25 Again this is HIA69's family.

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. I can tell you this is recorded by SND484 and the dates
3 of her record of her involvement with this family are
4 down the side. If you see there just at the entry -- if
5 we can scroll down slightly, and if we could highlight
6 the entry, the paragraph of [REDACTED], please --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- you will see there that it says --

9 **A. That she lost her temper with ...**

10 Q. -- "SND332 contacted re HIA69 running away last Friday.
11 Called at mother's -- HIA69 there but very unhappy at
12 idea of going back to Termonbacca. Has been getting on
13 badly with ...", and I can tell you that's SR6, "...
14 culminating in an incident where he alleges she caught
15 him by the throat. However, eventually agreed to go
16 accompanied by", and I think that was his mother. "We
17 talked to SR6, who said she understood that HIA69 was
18 unhappy, but that she felt he was quite insolent to her,
19 and that she had lost her temper with him. His mother
20 agreed we should try to find a placement for him in the
21 family."

22 Then if we can move down to -- I'll just get --
23 I think it is to the following page -- yes, the
24 following page, you say -- see there [REDACTED]":

25 "Talked to HIA69 and SND332. HIA69 says he

1 definitely wants to leave Termonbacca. Would like
2 contact with ... whom he has not seen since the summer."

3 I think that was his sister or brother.

4 Then if we can move on down, over the page it says
5 that -- if we can just pause there. Sorry. The next
6 page I think is -- there is an entry which, if I can
7 just put my hand on it, it actually says that there was
8 a discussion about HIA69 wanting to leave, that SR2 felt
9 that she couldn't get on with him and that -- sorry --
10 SR6 felt she couldn't get on with him and SR2 phoned to
11 say that she would take him into her group.

12 **A. Right.**

13 Q. Can I ask, SND332, do you have any recollection of that
14 incident at all?

15 **A. No. No, I don't, to be honest. I have no recollection**
16 **at all of HIA69 being moved from one group to another,**
17 **literally you are talking about moved 30, 40, yards.**

18 **Aye.**

19 Q. What I'm -- I'm interested to know if you have any
20 recollection of an incident involving HIA69 and SR6.

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Do you remember him even running away?

23 **A. That could be hap... -- that could have happened.**

24 I might have had knowledge of it. I don't remember
25 having knowledge of it or being there, but ...

1 Q. But you wouldn't argue with the social worker's notes?

2 A. Oh, God, no, I wouldn't, no. If that's -- certainly
3 I know SND484. I've great faith in SND484. I have
4 worked with her for many years. I have no doubt what
5 she is saying is true.

6 Q. And would you accept that this suggests that there was
7 somewhat more harsh treatment by some of the nuns of the
8 boys than you --

9 A. Well, that certainly is harsh treatment. You should not
10 grab somebody by the throat. That is mad... -- it's
11 madness.

12 Q. And there were a number of questions that I had been
13 asked to put to you about that incident, but you simply
14 don't recollect it?

15 A. I don't recollect it. It is an incident I should
16 remember if I was there, but I don't honestly recollect.
17 I would have got on well with HIA69. I would have --
18 I just don't remember it. Sorry.

19 Q. SND332, just coming on to what someone else has said,
20 HIA150 -- you know HIA150?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. He has said you told him that you tried to change
23 a labelling system that was in operation in the home.
24 Have you anything that you can remember about that?

25 A. I have been trying to think since you said that. The

1 only -- the only occasion I remember about a labelling
2 system was that there was a nun -- I think after SR2
3 left there was a nun came and she wasn't very
4 experienced, but she wanted to -- I think she wanted to
5 put children's initials on the mugs so if there was one
6 broken, whatever, I don't know what would happen, but
7 I was -- I was really livid about that. I remember
8 having a conversation with her about that, but that's --
9 that's the only thing I can remember, but that was done
10 and dusted in no time. That was accepted, you know.
11 I was saying no way should somebody's name be put on
12 a mug just in case they break it. So ...

13 Q. He also told the Inquiry that he returned to Termonbacca
14 as an ex-resident and enquired about his mother and that
15 he had a conversation with a nun who told him, "You
16 don't need to know about her. Didn't we take care of
17 you?" or words to that effect, and you were actually
18 present and overheard that conversation. Have you any
19 recollection of that?

20 A. No. I would have tried to help HIA150. I certainly
21 remember writing letters to maybe -- if somebody was
22 born in a particular townland, you would write to the
23 parish, see if there was any information around, baptism
24 records or whatever. I remember doing something like
25 that with HIA150, but in saying that, the nuns would

1 have been saying that probably as well to children, you
2 know, "She doesn't worry about you. She doesn't care
3 about you. She's never looked for you". They would
4 have done that. Obviously I haven't met any of the
5 older boys who didn't want to find out -- except one --
6 who didn't want to find out who their mother or who
7 their father was and want another information about it.
8 So, you know ...

9 Q. What I am asking -- this is not -- HIA150 is not being
10 critical of you in any way. He is just saying you were
11 present when the nun said that to him. Do you remember
12 that?

13 A. No, simply because I was doing exactly the opposite.

14 Q. SND332, one other person who has come and we have talked
15 about him already, HIA60 --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- he says -- he told the Inquiry that you were fired
18 after you were questioned by the nuns about an incident
19 where a boy was hit with the flex of a kettle by the
20 nun. Is that correct?

21 A. No. HIA60's got it all wrong, because what was
22 happening -- maybe there was another reason for this,
23 but what was happening is that the children were --
24 Termonbacca was basically closing down, because there
25 was very few children being referred. It was

1 a different era. There was a fostering team. There was
2 more emphasis put on fostering as a -- as a better
3 option. There was VOYPIC. There was all sorts of
4 reasons why children's homes should be smaller.
5 Termonbacca were not getting the same numbers. So it
6 wouldn't have been feasible to keep the children open.
7 Now that is what I was told by I think the Reverend
8 Mother at the time. So I was -- I was no longer
9 required.

10 Q. Can I ask you -- Termonbacca itself was closing down,
11 but the children were transferring down to Nazareth
12 House in Bishop Street --

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. -- and presumably the nuns were also, some of them at
15 least, transferring down to Nazareth House to continue
16 the care of the children --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. -- but was it ever suggested to you that there would be
19 employment for you in Nazareth House?

20 A. No. I wouldn't have expected that either, because
21 I don't think that -- I don't know. At the time I don't
22 feel I was particularly welcome in Nazareth House.
23 I don't -- I just didn't -- I remember asking for
24 information one time and it wasn't sort of forthcoming,
25 but that would have been maybe just people being

1 difficult, but certainly I have no -- no recollection of
2 anybody saying to me, "No, we don't want you. You're
3 out". It was done in a fairly civilised way.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you.

5 A. It was obvious to me as well that it was going to happen
6 anyway.

7 Q. SND332, thank you very much. Those are all the
8 questions I have for you --

9 A. Okay. Thank you.

10 Q. -- but the panel members may have some things that they
11 want to ask you.

12 Questions from THE PANEL

13 MS DOHERTY: SND332, thanks very much for your testimony.

14 A. Not at all.

15 Q. Can I just go back and talk about your conversations
16 with the older boys? I hear what you are saying about
17 the issue of weddings and drink and talking about
18 people, but when you did the aftercare work with them,
19 did they ever talk to you then about their time in
20 Termonbacca and about other aspects of the care they
21 received?

22 A. They would have -- some of them would have talked about
23 other boys who would have they would say come on to
24 them. It would be -- some of the boys didn't want to
25 talk about -- didn't like other boys talking like that,

1 because maybe they felt everybody was being seen as
2 being maybe interfered with in a way. So there was
3 a sort of like a macho thing about that, you know.
4 Certain boys wouldn't talk about it. I don't know how
5 -- how rife that was in Termonbacca, but if you can
6 imagine the size of the -- basically dormitories were
7 maybe -- maybe upwards of maybe 20 boys sleeping
8 unsupervised. Anything is possible, and some of the
9 boys would have -- would have been reluctant to talk
10 about what their experiences were. Others would have --
11 would have -- there is one name to me -- this guy is
12 dead now -- one guy would have said, "Now he came on to
13 me", but, you know, that's as far as they would go in at
14 that sense, you know.

15 Q. Did they talk to you about any other aspects of their
16 care, about, for example, bedwetting and how it was
17 dealt with or ...?

18 A. No. I was shocked to hear about some of the stories
19 about the bedwetting, that they're actually -- it was
20 inhuman the treatment they got in terms of bedwetting,
21 but no, no.

22 Q. And in relation to preparing children for leaving care
23 when you were there, was there any more work done in
24 relation to that in terms of preparing ...?

25 A. It was easier for me, because most of the children when

1 I was there were -- had a social worker. So you had
2 someone working in partnership. There were more
3 options. You had the development of aftercare services
4 as well, which was vital. It was like a whole team
5 dedicated to looking after the needs of children who
6 have left care. So the Termonbacca boys never had that
7 over a generation. So in many ways -- in many ways what
8 I was doing was just sticking plaster. It was like
9 coming in after the -- after the harm, and some -- as
10 I say, some -- I was at maybe two, three funerals of
11 boys who died before they were 30, and -- yes.

12 Q. Okay. The last thing is that we have been told that
13 there were monitoring visits began from the Board.

14 [REDACTED] TL 4 and [REDACTED] SND 468 are mentioned as people
15 who might have done those visits on a monthly basis. Do
16 you have any memory of that?

17 A. I remember -- yes, I remember [REDACTED] TL 4 coming. Is it
18 [REDACTED] SND 468 was it?

19 Q. [REDACTED] SND 468.

20 A. [REDACTED] SND 468. I don't remember.

21 Q. Seemingly he was involved in starting the review system
22 and maybe chaired some of the earlier reviews, but [REDACTED] TL 4
23 came?

24 A. No. [REDACTED] TL 4 -- [REDACTED] TL 4 definitely -- [REDACTED] TL 4 definitely came.
25 He was -- I would have seen him in all the units and

1 **talking to the sisters in charge of that. So, yes,**
2 **TL 4 was there.**

3 Q. And you would have -- do you know what he was there for?
4 Was it --

5 A. Oh, aye. He was very open. TL 4 would have been
6 looking at systems and all sorts of things that
7 pertained to looking after children. So yes.

8 Q. Okay, and would he have talked to you as a social
9 worker?

10 A. I would have known TL 4 from way back. So he would
11 have been my supervisor when I came back into the Trust
12 again. So I have known him for twenty years, yes.

13 Q. Okay, but as a worker, a social worker, did you ever
14 have discussions as a group about what was coming out of
15 monitoring or areas that needed improvement? Was there
16 any discussion about the outcome of inspection reports
17 like this?

18 A. No.

19 Q. So there was no --

20 A. There was -- it is almost -- it was almost as if the
21 inspections were hidden, and all I remember is one
22 inspection, a series of I think it was three or four
23 people came in, spent a couple of hours talking to
24 Mother Superior and one of the -- I think it was SR2 and
25 then left again. I don't think they even looked at

1 a child. I am not even sure of it, but I think that
2 that was it. They were from the Department and that was
3 their inspection, which was ludicrous, because I work in
4 [REDACTED], and when RQIA come,
5 everybody knows about it. They are really thorough and
6 you have got to have everything spot on. So, yes, it
7 was -- it was a bit strange, to say the least now.

8 Q. The last thing is just to ask you about -- I mean one of
9 the things that we have heard a lot is about kind of
10 a lack of love or warmth for children, you know, in
11 different times during the decades. Just in your
12 experience there in relation to the nuns and the -- did
13 you feel that the children -- there was a warmth? Did
14 you get a sense of that?

15 A. It depends on who it was. There was -- there was some
16 sisters who were amazing in terms of their ability to
17 care and love. I remember [REDACTED] SR 17 with the
18 young children, young infants, who need that sort of
19 hands on, need nursing, need that sort of close
20 caressing, and she was excellent. SR2 was equally,
21 because I remember SR2 going to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED], and she
23 was -- she had an ability to give that love as well.
24 She could be very sharp sometimes, but there was a deep
25 love for what she -- for the boys that she -- that she

1 reared.

2 Q. I know it is harder to go to the other side of that, but
3 in terms -- and I understand that, but it would be
4 really helpful to know did you feel that there were
5 other nuns that it was less natural to them to be warm?

6 A. I would say if you look at any organisation, and even my
7 own in terms of social work, some social workers are
8 very cold; other social workers are not. Definitely
9 there were some nuns that came and just lacked that
10 warmth, lacked that -- maybe they lacked experience of
11 care. I am not sure what training they had. I am not
12 sure if there was a systematic way of training nuns,
13 because when SR2 left, there was another nun came and
14 took over her role. I don't even know if she was
15 trained. I don't know if she wanted to be in
16 a children's home. That was all down to do with the
17 Order in terms of what their organisation was. Do you
18 put in somebody experienced or not? I don't know, but
19 certainly some of the most amazing things I would have
20 seen SR2.

21 SR6 and SR142 -- not SR142 -- SR6 and -- I can't
22 remember the others -- you could see moments of real --
23 real compassion and love, but there were other times
24 when they would be barking at children. Maybe that is
25 about frustration about trying to do the two -- the two

1 things you are juggling with, with the community that
2 you are in in terms of you are in an Order, you are
3 in -- but also you are looking at children, and it's
4 very difficult I think to marry the two or to keep the
5 two positive.

6 Q. There's different times, isn't there?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. I mean, there was a time where, you know, giving a child
9 a clip across the ear wasn't a-- I mean, was that
10 a sense that sometimes that frustration might have ended
11 up in --

12 A. I have never seen a nun hit anybody. So I can't say
13 that, but I remember being at school. I was at a
14 [REDACTED]. I got thumped and battered
15 with straps and whatever for not knowing my irregular
16 Irish verbs or whatever. So there is a sense that
17 people hit out more maybe in the '60s and the '70s.
18 I don't know, but it was something I never seen.
19 I never seen a nun hit a child, but I was horrified when
20 I heard, you know, some of the stories that are coming
21 out, but again looking at that -- looking at that in
22 context and where it is at, it is not condoning it, but
23 it's -- you know, we all have experiences of being --
24 being hit, you know.

25 Q. Thanks very much.

1 **A. That's not to condone it.**

2 Q. Thank you.

3 MR LANE: There was the nursery unit also at Termonbacca --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- during your time there. Did you have any dealings at
6 all with children when they were tiny like that or was
7 it only with the older children?

8 **A. Well, there was -- the nursery unit was basically**
9 **a nurturing unit. It was young children and young**
10 **infants. I had less contact with them than I would**
11 **have, say, the children who are growing up and**
12 **developing and also the older boys. In fact, looking**
13 **back, on reflection I probably spent more time with the**
14 **older boys who were out in the community than I was**
15 **doing with the children, but I think it was difficult to**
16 **get that balance, but the nursery was -- it was children**
17 **who were maybe in cots and nursery play and stuff like**
18 **that. So ...**

19 Q. Did they have reviews like the older children?

20 **A. They did, aye. They did, aye.**

21 Q. You took part in the reviews?

22 **A. I took part -- those were reviews that -- if there was**
23 **a social worker involved. When I started in**
24 **Termonbacca, there was children in Termonbacca who**
25 **didn't have a social worker, who came up maybe from**

1 Fahan, from Donegal, a bit older and were maybe moved to
2 Termonbacca to be looked after, but there was more
3 chance I think as well, though, of children being
4 fostered in that sense or even adopted, if you could get
5 children freed up for adoption. So there wasn't as many
6 in the baby unit, as it was called.

7 Q. Did you ever visit Fahan yourself?

8 A. No, not within -- the old people's part of it, but not
9 in the children's part, no. I've not went there.

10 Q. You mention that there was a certain proportion of the
11 children who didn't have social workers. Did they have
12 any planning process or any review process at all?

13 A. Yes. Well, there would -- there would be a review in
14 terms of the leaving, if they were leaving, if they were
15 getting to that stage, but by the time I was -- I was
16 into my, what, my last year in Termonbacca most I think,
17 if not all, had social workers. There was only about
18 one or two, and they were -- they were talking about --
19 there was one girl I think who had a distant aunt who
20 was going to look after her, you know. It was -- nobody
21 was going into another care system --

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 A. -- which would have been tragic.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you about one or two things that

1 you have already been asked about? One is whether you
2 were aware that there was a practice it is claimed that
3 older boys would be left to take charge of younger boys,
4 particularly at nights, when the nuns were perhaps
5 having a meal or at prayer.

6 **A. I would be -- I would have been shocked if I had known**
7 **that there was older boys tasked with looking after**
8 **younger boys, and showering as well. I find that**
9 **difficult to understand if it's true.**

10 Q. But, as I understand your evidence in general, you did
11 have conversations with children who would speak to you
12 --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- maybe not making complaints, but just would talk to
15 you in general. Was there never any reference to X or
16 Y, who you would have realised was an older person or
17 maybe -- excuse me -- even an ex-resident coming back,
18 you know, just some passing comment that made you
19 wonder, "Who is looking after these children?"

20 **A. For me there should be always staff involved with**
21 **bathing or -- or with children. There would be -- there**
22 **was lay staff as well. When the nuns would have been**
23 **away, there is lay staff. I don't know if there was**
24 **an issue about -- about female staff maybe helping**
25 **shower boys. I don't know if there was an issue there,**

1 but I certainly have no knowledge of anybody -- any
2 older boy coming in to bathe younger children.

3 I can't -- I can't for the life of me understand that
4 that would be a healthy practice.

5 Q. But nobody just passed a comment that made you wonder,
6 "Well, are there older boys or maybe even ex-residents
7 looking after children?"

8 A. No.

9 Q. If I could turn then to the incident involving the two
10 people who have been referred to, that's HIA69 and SR6
11 --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- which seems to have happened in or around [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED], and you have seen the extracts --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- from the Western Board social worker's report about
17 this, and essentially what -- the end result was
18 apparently that SR2 said she would take HIA69 into her
19 group and that is how it was resolved.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. Now, as I understand it, you said that you should
22 remember that if you were there, but you don't have
23 a recollection of it?

24 A. No, I don't. I don't know why, but I certainly don't
25 remember that, that HIA69 was transferred to SR2.

1 Q. But on any way of looking at it then, let alone today,
2 what seems to have happened is that SR6 admitted or
3 accepted that she had grabbed this young man by the
4 throat. Now that was a very serious matter --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- even if standards of reporting and so on have changed
7 since.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. But you have no recollection of that at all?

10 **A. No, I have not. I was shocked when I read it. I have
11 no recollection of that.**

12 Q. Thank you very much. Well, I think that's all we need
13 to ask you. Thank you for coming to speak to us today.

14 **A. Okay. Thank you very much.**

15 MS SMITH: Thank you, SND332.

16 Chairman, there is another witness, but I think he
17 is scheduled for this afternoon, but it may be possible
18 to start him earlier rather than at 2 o'clock if ...

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, I think we are very much in the hands of
20 counsel in that respect. Just if everyone disperses, it
21 might not be easy to get everyone back.

22 MS SMITH: I can check with Mr Aiken. In fact, he is coming
23 to inform you directly, Chairman, as to when he might be
24 ready. I am told he will be ready to start in about
25 fifteen minutes, Chairman, if that was suitable, and

1 then -- or else --

2 **A. Can I go?**

3 MS SMITH: Yes. Sorry.

4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

5 **A. Thank you.**

6 **(Witness withdrew)**

7 CHAIRMAN: I think we would prefer to start let's say at
8 1.30 and simply have his evidence uninterrupted.

9 MS SMITH: Very well.

10 CHAIRMAN: I can confirm that we do not expect the other
11 witness who I mentioned yesterday to attend.

12 MS SMITH: That is correct.

13 CHAIRMAN: I take it he has not come?

14 MS SMITH: I am not aware that he has.

15 CHAIRMAN: He simply said he is not coming.

16 (12.15 pm)

17 (Lunch break)

18 (1.30 pm)

19 WITNESS SND76 (called)

20 CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

21 MR AIKEN: Chairman, the next witness to give evidence today
22 is SND76, who is "SND76". If we can bring up on the
23 screen SND-15824, and SND76 is aware that you are going
24 to ask him, Chairman, about taking the oath or
25 affirming.

1 CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to take a religious oath or to make
2 an affirmation, a solemn promise? They have the same
3 legal effect, as I am sure you are aware. It is
4 a matter entirely for your choice which you wish to do.

5 **A. I will take the religious oath, please.**

6 **WITNESS SND76 (sworn)**

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down.

8 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

9 MR AIKEN: If we go to SND-15579, please. SND76, I am going
10 to call you SND76, as I do with all of the witnesses
11 using their first name. On the screen in front of you
12 I hope you will agree is the first page of the first of
13 three statements that you have given to the Inquiry.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. But on the screen version it has redactions. In place
16 of your name you can see "SND76".

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. So I just want you to check, first of all, that that is
19 the first page of the first statement?

20 **A. It is that. That's correct.**

21 Q. If we can go to SND-15824, please, which is the 46th
22 page, the first statement, and at the bottom you will
23 see again there's a redaction over the signature, but
24 can you confirm you have signed that statement?

25 **A. I have. That is correct, yes.**

1 Q. And then there is a second statement at SND-16402.
2 Again if would you confirm for me that that is the first
3 page of your second statement?

4 **A. That's correct, yes.**

5 Q. And if we can go to SND-16410, this should be the last
6 page of your second statement, and again can you confirm
7 that you have signed the copy that -- the hard copy
8 version where you can see your signature?

9 **A. I can confirm that, yes.**

10 Q. And then the third statement is at SND-16415 and again
11 can you confirm that's the first page of the third
12 statement?

13 **A. Maybe I should clarify. That's the second statement,
14 20th February. I think the previous statement was
15 March, if I remember rightly. That previous statement
16 you mentioned was 22nd ... --**

17 Q. SND-16... -- let's just clarify that so we're clear.
18 SND-16402, please. Yes. So it's gone into the
19 bundle in the wrong order.

20 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

21 Q. So that's the third statement we have dealt with. I'm
22 going to go to the second statement at SND-16415, and
23 can you confirm that's the first page of the second
24 statement?

25 **A. That is correct, yes.**

1 Q. And if we go to the last page of the second statement at
2 SND-16425, and again that's the last page of the second
3 statement?

4 **A. That's correct, yes.**

5 Q. And you can confirm you have signed it?

6 **A. I have, yes.**

7 Q. And the three statements together, you want to adopt the
8 content of those statements as your evidence before the
9 Inquiry?

10 **A. I do, yes.**

11 Q. Now, as I said to you this morning, SND76, when we were
12 speaking, the Inquiry Panel have had the opportunity to
13 read those three statements, which are very detailed and
14 cover 65 pages. So they have taken the time to do that
15 in advance. What I want to do, just using the page that
16 we can see in front of us and the redaction, that's
17 there because anonymity has been given to you as
18 an individual, as it has to others, and "SND76" has been
19 interposed instead of your name so that it is not
20 possible to identify you, as it is with other
21 individuals, if material is placed on the Inquiry
22 website. I know you have had some interaction about
23 that with the Inquiry solicitor. So anonymity in the
24 end is a matter for the individual until the Inquiry
25 decides otherwise as to what it's doing about anonymity,

1 but can I just ask you to confirm that you don't want to
2 waive your anonymity; you want your anonymity to remain?

3 **A. I want to retain my anonymity, yes.**

4 Q. Now there are a number of issues that I drew your
5 attention to this morning that I'm going to take you
6 through over the next period of time while you're giving
7 your evidence, and I'm going to try to bring together
8 a number of points from the different statements that
9 come together in groups.

10 What I want to the do, first of all, is just -- you
11 were born on ?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. So you are now ?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And you were admitted to Termonbacca on

16 , aged ?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. For the record the entry can be found at SND-15524. If
19 we just bring that up, please, SND-15524, it shows that,
20 and as you have said in your statement, you were a --
21 your first statement -- if we can just turn that round,
22 if that's possible. Thank you. You -- your family in
23 conjunction with the family priest arranged for you to
24 go as a baby into Fahan in Donegal into the care of the
25 Sisters of Nazareth there.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And at the age of then, as seems to have happened with
3 a number of individuals, you moved from Fahan into
4 Termonbacca?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And this record shows you coming in on the
7 recommendation of the Mother Superior in Fahan and
8 staying in Termonbacca and your leaving date is said to
9 be .

10 **A. That's correct, yes.**

11 Q. I mentioned to you earlier this morning that has you at
12 age 18.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. A lot of other individuals were leaving at 16.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. And the reason you got to stay longer -- I am not going
17 to bring it up, but I will give the panel the reference
18 at SND-15817. You explain in your statement about how
19 you got to stay on longer beyond 16, because
20 educationally you were doing well

21 , and they were happy to let you stay on and, in
22 fact, you mention in your statement that they gave you
23 back the grant that they could have kept --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- to fund your keep, as it were?

1 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes.**

2 Q. That's why you were perhaps staying on longer than most
3 other individuals who left at 16?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now one of the core participants before the Inquiry, one
6 of the sets of bodies who are involved is the Health &
7 Social Care Board, who are, as I explained to you
8 earlier, the successor body to a series of bodies like
9 the welfare authorities and subsequently the health
10 trust -- health boards and then trusts in Northern
11 Ireland.

12 They draw attention to the fact that your admission
13 into care and your time in care was a private
14 arrangement that was made by your family with the
15 Sisters of Nazareth and as a result there isn't Social
16 Services' as we would know it now engagement with you,
17 because you never came to the attention of the Welfare
18 Authority.

19 **A. I personally have never had any involvement with social
20 workers throughout my time in Termonbacca, no.**

21 Q. Now in speaking to you this morning the one person you
22 do recall coming to Termonbacca was **SND 483** .

23 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

24 Q. You place that -- if we can get the time frame, you are
25 going in in .

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. We will discuss later on the substantial change in the
3 buildings at Termonbacca between and possible early
4 to mid s.

5 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

6 Q. You have a memory of **SND 483** visiting Termonbacca in
7 that first period, the to era?

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. She appears to have worked for the Catholic Diocese of
10 Derry in the welfare organisation that they set up, and
11 you don't recall her being personally involved with you.
12 Is that right?

13 **A. That's correct. I mean, I was aware that she was**
14 **visiting from time to time, but she never came to the**
15 **children's section of the home. She was normally in the**
16 **convent area dealing with the nuns on whatever issues**
17 **they were dealing with, but I personally don't know**
18 **what -- what -- what involvement she had, but we were**
19 **aware that she did visit from time to time.**

20 Q. Then you're aware when you were leaving in then,
21 that's in and around the time **SND332** was beginning, who
22 gave evidence earlier today.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. He worked as a social worker in-house between and
25 and you would have got to know him as you went back

1 as an ex-resident going back to help out from time to
2 time, which is an issue we will come to.

3 **A. That's correct, yes. I knew SND332. I mean, I got on**
4 **very well with SND332. He -- I think he was employed**
5 **full-time as a social worker. I don't know whether he**
6 **was employed by the nuns or by any other agency, but**
7 **I know he was a full-time social worker.**

8 Q. I think employed directly by the congregation --

9 **A. He was, yes.**

10 Q. -- living and working in -- or working in the
11 Termonbacca home. So that is what you recall in terms
12 of **SND 483** coming in, and I mentioned to you earlier
13 you from I think as a result of -- by that stage
14 you were , if I've got that right.

15 **A. .**

16 Q. As a result of getting a diary for Christmas --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- you began keeping not an emotional diary in that
19 sense --

20 **A. Uh-huh, yes.**

21 Q. -- but a record of events, as it were --

22 **A. Certainly.**

23 Q. -- and you have carried that practice on.

24 **A. Certainly.**

25 Q. For instance, you were able to draw attention -- and

1 I will just give the Panel the reference at SND-15874 --
2 that you had an entry in your diary you mention in your
3 statement that on , by which time you
4 are --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- HIA60, who we will come to deal with in a particular
7 respect, you recorded him moving from SR6's group to
8 SR2's group.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. That's one example of factual matters like that --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- that you recorded.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And you have agreed with me that you will have a look at
15 those documents for factual matters, like you think you
16 recorded when nuns came and when they left.

17 **A. I have, yes. I've got records of nuns coming, nuns
18 going, yes.**

19 Q. And we will work through those with you to assist the
20 Inquiry.

21 **A. Yes, certainly.**

22 Q. Now what I want to ask you about then is two particular
23 nuns that you name. I am going to concentrate on one in
24 particular, but during that first phase of you -- your
25 formative years, as you would describe them, growing up

1 there was SR1 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- who shouldn't be identified -- she is "SR1" -- and
4 SR2, "SR2" --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- as we have called them for public purposes. You
7 describe at SND-15806, if we could just bring that up,
8 please, having a very good relationship with both of
9 these nuns.

10 **A. That's correct, yes.**

11 Q. You -- you held them in -- can we just - it is the
12 second paragraph down:

13 "The two nuns in charge of the boys were SR1 and
14 SR2. I got on well with both sisters and have always
15 had great respect for both of them. Sadly SR1 is now
16 deceased. SR2 was the younger of the two. At some
17 point the house was divided into two groups and each of
18 the sisters had responsibility for one half of the boys.
19 I was in SR2's group and remained in her group until
20 ..." you left in .

21 **A. That's correct, yes.**

22 Q. As I said to you before we began, there is absolutely no
23 difficulty if you need a moment. There is no problem
24 with that. If we need to take a break, we can do that.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. There is no difficulty, but -- do you want to take --

2 **A. I don't know what's happening. I'm sorry. Go ahead.**

3 **I'm okay. I'm okay.**

4 Q. It is perfectly all right, SND76. There is absolutely
5 no difficulty, but the position is you had a very warm
6 relationship with both of these nuns, and SR2 in
7 particular you describe as effectively a mother to you.

8 **A. (Nods.)**

9 Q. And I don't want to have to --

10 **A. I'm sorry. I don't know what's happening. I'm sorry.**

11 **I'm okay.**

12 Q. It is perfectly all right. I don't want to add to your
13 distress, SND76, but I'm aware that you want to say --

14 **A. I do, yes.**

15 Q. -- some things and I'm going to help you --

16 **A. Yes. No problem.**

17 Q. -- do that as best I can.

18 You mention slightly further down on that page -- if
19 we just scroll a little further, please, you remember --
20 in fact, we are not in the right spot, but I'm going to
21 do it this way, SND76. If you just look at me --

22 **A. Certainly I can.**

23 Q. -- and I will help you as best I can.

24 **A. Yes, I can.**

25 Q. You remember whenever SR2 came to leave Termonbacca --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- which was in , by which time you were ,
3 if I've got that --

4 **A. .**

5 Q. .

6 **A. , yes, yes.**

7 Q. And you describe that, although you were an ex-resident
8 coming back --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- you had already had to make a progression beyond
11 Termonbacca --

12 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- you found that a particularly emotional experience
14 for you because your mother, as you saw her, was
15 effectively leaving for .

16 **A. Yes. I think it had a big impact for many of the boys,
17 because she had been there for many of us. You know, it
18 wasn't just me. She was there for many of us and I know
19 it was quite a difficult time for many other residents
20 as well, not just me.**

21 Q. But it's something that --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- sticks in your -- your mind. You remember. In fact,
24 if we go down to SND-15821, please, a little further
25 down, this is the -- just scroll down, please. In fact,

1 you describe in the paragraph that we can see beginning:

2 "I decided ..."

3 that, in fact, you were -- you'd taken on a role in

4 and then were taking up a job in

5 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and you chose to go and begin your career,
8 because that's where SR2 was.

9 **A. Yes, that's correct. That's correct, yes.**

10 Q. And you -- in fact, you were explaining to me that you
11 spent time -- when you moved to , you were in
12 the --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- but you spent the weekends in the Sisters of Nazareth
15 house in --

16 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

17 Q. -- where you renewed your time both with SR2 --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- and SND 194 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- who was also someone who ended up living in the --
22 she had been a civilian worker in Termonbacca that you
23 had known from there.

24 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

25 Q. So that was two connections for you as you began this

1 new departure in , which was a different
2 adjustment to make, given you had lived in Derry all of
3 your life that you could recall?

4 **A. That's correct, yes.**

5 Q. One of the points that you want to make, if we can just
6 go back to SND-15818 -- and this is -- if we just scroll
7 down, please, to the paragraph that begins:

8 "You can imagine ...",

9 one of the points you want to make is there's this
10 supervision issue, which we are going to deal with, but
11 you make the point here:

12 "You can imagine how difficult a job the nuns had
13 looking after so many boys without any proper formal
14 support network. Whilst most of the boys would have
15 been easily managed there were always a number of quite
16 troublesome boys who were always getting into
17 confrontations with other boys and also with the nuns."

18 You point out some of these boys today might have
19 been --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- treated differently in terms of medical intervention.

22 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

23 Q. But the point you are making here across a number of
24 paragraphs in your statement is that -- perhaps you want
25 to explain it if I give you the hooks to hang it on --

1 **A. Yes, certainly.**

2 Q. -- but the nuns themselves were young women coming into
3 this task --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- not necessarily themselves having been equipped to
6 look after children the way people might be today --

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. -- and into an environment where you had a huge number
9 of boys and only the two nuns looking after them.

10 **A. Yes. I mean, I would say that in those early days**
11 **especially there were no staff as such, no support**
12 **staff, and I suppose maybe financial reasons obviously**
13 **dictated that. So you very much had two sisters.**
14 **I remember SR1 was probably in her 30s then possibly.**
15 **SR2 certainly was very young, and I don't know what**
16 **training, if any, they had, but in some respects they**
17 **were in quite -- with hindsight quite a difficult**
18 **position, because they were looking after probably**
19 **anywhere between 80 to 100 boys between the two of them.**
20 **They were there morning, noon, night, seven days a week,**
21 **no rest days, no time off. I think even in those days,**
22 **because of the nature of the Order at the time, I don't**
23 **think sisters went home to their families until maybe**
24 **every five or six years. So you have got that maybe**
25 **pressure cooker type environment in which they are**

1 working in. So in many respects it was quite
2 a difficult context for them to work in, you know, with
3 hindsight.

4 Q. That's another reason why you hold -- you had a positive
5 experience in Termonbacca, but you hold them in high
6 regard, because you reflect on the difficult conditions
7 they found themselves in --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- trying to look after such a large number of boys.

10 A. Well, actually because, you know, no-one forced them to
11 do it. They volunteered. They took on that role. It
12 was a very, very difficult role they took on and I think
13 they should be commended for the excellent work that
14 they did and the resilience that they had, because,
15 I mean, obviously -- you may come on to it, but I've
16 seen some of the allegations that have been made by some
17 people, which I strongly dispute. In fact, if anything,
18 you know, they were commendable for the restraint that
19 they showed, but maybe with hindsight, you know, they
20 probably would have had staff, they would have had
21 training to undertake the work they were doing, but they
22 probably didn't have that in those days. So I think --
23 I think they did an excellent job.

24 Q. From your perspective they had a difficult job to do?

25 A. A very, very difficult job.

1 Q. Now -- and one of the points you make, if we just scroll
2 over to SND-15819, just so we put it formally on the
3 record in public, that you -- if we can get the -- just,
4 yes, in the latter part of the second paragraph:

5 "My memories of having lived at Termonbacca have
6 always been very positive. I loved living there. I was
7 very sad when I had to leave. Like many other
8 ex-Termonbacca boys, I regularly returned to visit my
9 home, and I am very grateful to the Sisters of Nazareth
10 for the wonderful start in life that they gave me and
11 many other ex-Termonbacca residents."

12 **A. That's correct, yes.**

13 Q. That's your gratitude towards the congregation for what
14 it did for you?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now there are a number of what I am going to call
17 special occasions or events that you describe across
18 your statements and I am just going to try to bring
19 those out in a group, if I can.

20 You mention at SND-15808, if we can go back to that
21 page, please, and at the top of the page you mention,
22 for instance:

23 "On special occasions like Easter, Hallowe'en,
24 Christmas and feast days, like St. Patrick's Day, we
25 would have a special meal, a party in effect. There was

1 always the customary ice-cream and jelly to follow, our
2 all-time favourite desert."

3 You mention then on SND-15809, if we can just move
4 to that page, and from my recollection it's down towards
5 the bottom half of the page -- yes.

6 "From time to time we would have visits to the home
7 from members of the St. Vincent de Paul charity and
8 later representatives from the large local factory
9 called Du Pont. The St. Vincent de Paul ... organised
10 Christmas presents ..."

11 So -- and you then also mention important visitors
12 like the diocesan bishop, **SND 131** , was visiting
13 and occasionally the Mother Regional, who was the head
14 of the congregation in Ireland, would have visited.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You say:

17 "I remember these visits were all rather grand
18 affairs with all of the children and nuns gathering at
19 the front of the convent to greet the arriving guests."

20 So special occasions, as it were, for dignitaries --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- if I can use that term, coming to the home.

23 **A. VIPs.**

24 Q. You mention then in SND-15810 the -- if we can just --
25 if you can scroll up a little to the page before, if

1 that's possible -- yes -- just stop there -- you mention
2 then the summer holidays that you had as a group of boys
3 going to Carrowmena initially --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- and then to a different holiday home in Donegal, and
6 the positive -- you recollect spending days on beach as
7 a group and the -- you talk about the nuns cooking for
8 you at Carrowmena.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. If we scroll down a little, you describe there where the
11 store room was crammed full of food is a recollection
12 that you have --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- of the place. A particular story you describe then:

15 "When the weather was fine, we'd go out for long
16 walks with the nuns along the quiet country roads. That
17 was quite exciting really, as we were used to living
18 near a city where all the roads had street lighting, and
19 here in Donegal the roads were completely pitch dark.
20 I remember SR2 used to tell us lots of ghost stories as
21 we walked in the dark and they had more impact on us due
22 to the fact we were walking in the pitch dark and
23 waiting for a ghost to pounce out from behind a hedge at
24 any time."

25 That's a memory you have of humour and fun that was

1 going on.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. We mentioned the Christmas parties. You mention those
4 again at SND-16421 and paragraph 29. You make the point
5 Christmas and Hallowe'en being very special occasions.
6 You remember the old house at Termonbacca. So this is
7 pre the '69 to '73/4 development.

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. The old house at Termonbacca:

10 "... the excitement of coming home from school and
11 discovering that the Christmas tree and decorations had
12 been erected. It was a real and very tall tree and the
13 decorations were always very nice."

14 You mention getting invited to lots of Christmas
15 parties.

16 "... and, of course, on Christmas Day Santa came to
17 Termonbacca and we were all given lovely presents, which
18 ... included ... selection boxes and a generous
19 Christmas dinner."

20 You talk about lots of fruit and nuts, usual party
21 food.

22 Then at SND-15810, and I believe this is down
23 towards the bottom of SND-15810, you -- yes -- every
24 Saturday afternoon you describe being given the pocket
25 money. Your recollection was it was either 2 shillings

1 or maybe half a crown.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Is that -- that's --

4 **A. I believe so, yes. It is very hard to remember, but**
5 **I believe it was about 2 shillings or a florin, half**
6 **a crown.**

7 Q. Your tendency was to go to either Woolworths or
8 Wellworths in the city.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was asking about the particular favourite which others
11 have mentioned, which was the broken biscuits.

12 **A. Yes. I think in many respects it was because it**
13 **represented good value for money. I mean, you got quite**
14 **a lot of biscuits for not very much money. So that was**
15 **a little treat.**

16 Q. At SND-15811 you mention two particular musical
17 elements. At the top of the -- towards the top of the
18 page -- yes -- the second paragraph you say:

19 "Although we may not have had the opportunity to
20 take part in extracurricular activities away from
21 Termonbacca, there were opportunities at Termonbacca,
22 which was the choir and brass band."

23 You recall I think another teacher coming in to give
24 art lessons.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Those were things you enjoyed doing.

2 **A. That's correct, yes.**

3 Q. Then another particular positive memory that you have at
4 SND-15815, please, you -- just towards the bottom,
5 please, of the page -- yes.

6 "During my time in Termonbacca the Sisters worked
7 with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and ... other
8 organisations to find families who would be willing to
9 take some of the children out for short holidays,
10 usually in the summer and Christmas."

11 You describe then the two particular families that
12 you went to stay with. That was a positive experience
13 for you of going and spending time with others.

14 **A. Yes. Very pleasant memories. Very, very nice families.**
15 **I still keep contact with both families today.**

16 Q. Now you -- as well as you having positive experience, it
17 is clear from what you say in your statement and indeed
18 what you are aware others have said, not just about you
19 but there were others in a similar category who were
20 seen as favourites, if you like, for want of a better
21 phrase.

22 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

23 Q. You mention at SND-15817 being given the responsibility
24 of running errands. Let's see if I can -- if we just
25 scroll down a little. Yes. You see:

1 "Whilst I was still living at Termonbacca the nuns
2 would entrust me with tasks such as regularly walking
3 down to the Sisters of Mercy ... to collect bread ..."

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Visiting for the prescriptions.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You mention that, while the nuns might not necessarily
8 have known, there was an added benefit to being given
9 the errand, because you used to get a little money from
10 the people you were visiting.

11 **A. chemist, yes.**

12 Q. I think you were -- you are not alone in this. So I am
13 not being offensive to you in saying I think you were
14 described earlier this week by another witness who was
15 around the same time as a blue-eyed boy, as it were,
16 someone who was favoured by SR2 presumably --

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. -- because of your close relationship with her.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You are not the first person to be characterised in that
21 way.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Do you recall seeing yourself in that way at the time or
24 recognising that that's how you were viewed?

25 **A. I mean, subsequently I have heard people refer to me in**

1 that sort of way, but at the time if you look at it with
2 hindsight, being sent to pick up prescriptions, walking
3 from Termonbacca to the town centre, it was probably two
4 or three miles; being sent to pick up the hosts. It is
5 hardly an act of favouritism, if you like, because that
6 was the chore I was given that other people weren't
7 given. So maybe some people might see it as a plus, but
8 it can also be seen as a negative, because I was given
9 extra tasks that others weren't given and -- but maybe
10 they trusted me. I don't know, but what I am saying is
11 I was never conscious when I was living at Termonbacca
12 that I was seen as -- I mean, the phrase that's been
13 used by some people is "sister's pet". I mean, I have
14 never heard that nor have recollection of that having
15 been used when I was in Termonbacca, but subsequently
16 when we have had discussions when we meet up,
17 ex-Termonbacca boys, and reminisce, that comment has
18 been made about me by some of the former boys
19 subsequently.

20 Q. So that might have been how they perceived it.

21 A. That was their perception.

22 Q. But you -- nothing was said to you at the time? No fuss
23 was made about it at the time with you?

24 A. No. Yes, it's just something that's a bit -- there we
25 are, but I wasn't conscious at the time I lived there

1 **that I was sister's pet, to quote some people.**

2 Q. Now in terms of education -- you mention this across
3 a couple of your statements, and I just want to take you
4 to ground on this. At SND-15811 you mention down
5 towards the bottom I believe -- yes -- down towards the
6 bottom you have pleasant memories of going to Nazareth
7 House Primary School and pleasant memories of SR9. You
8 describe how they kept you on. You got to stay on later
9 at night to work and you felt they were pushing you on
10 to try and help you get the 11 Plus --

11 **A. That's correct, yes.**

12 Q. -- which ultimately didn't work out --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- but it didn't do you any harm, like so many.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You -- one of the memories you recall is as a result of
17 getting to stay on you got the benefit of the homemade
18 chips that were being made, which was a particular perk
19 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- as you saw it at the time.

22 **A. That's -- yes.**

23 Q. And ultimately -- we touched on it earlier -- you did
24 stay on in Termonbacca beyond what would have been seen
25 perhaps as the normal time,

1

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. The Panel are aware from your statements of the
4 progression and the job you ultimately took and the
5 period of time you spent doing that --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and your ultimate retirement after a long period of
8 .

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. Now one of the issues that you touch on, and I will just
11 flag it up in passing, SND-15806, and then you also
12 mention it again at SND-15807, as far as you were
13 concerned, the food in Termonbacca was always of good
14 quality and there was lots of it.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. If we just scroll down a little further, please. Yes.
17 If we just stop -- it is the last paragraph:

18 "There was a large dining room in the old building
19 ..."

20 So again we are talking about pre the '69
21 redevelopment.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. "... and there were lots of small tables and chairs ...
24 the refectory. The main meals were prepared in the
25 kitchen."

1 You regarded yourself as always well fed. There
2 would be porridge. I know you have an issue with people
3 complaining about lumpy porridge --

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. -- but it is not your experience with the porridge.

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. You talk about cooked food, in terms of breakfast maybe
8 bacon.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. If we scroll further down, you say there was a lot of
11 frying going on, but maybe people didn't necessarily
12 know better then.

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. You were getting sausages and bacon and fried bread --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- as part of your food.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You talk about you were a keen tea drinker --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- and there was -- when you came back from school
21 mid-afternoon there was tea --

22 **A. Tea and cake.**

23 Q. -- and there might be a cake or something with it.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Then there was a hot meal in the evening.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Again you were a fan of the chips that were made.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You talk about a particular machine that they had to do
5 the chopping --

6 **A. In the kitchen, yes.**

7 Q. -- into proper chips. So as far as you were concerned
8 the food was a positive aspect --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- of your time.

11 **A. I think I have said in my statement that we probably**
12 **were better fed than some of the people we went to**
13 **school with.**

14 Q. Yes, because they were coming from backgrounds --

15 **A. Deprived backgrounds.**

16 Q. -- where there was a lot of deprivation.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. In fact, you may have been better off than they were.

19 **A. Easily.**

20 Q. Now you mention the issue of numbering at SND-15808, and
21 you are aware there's been this issue of numbering, and
22 there seems to be definitely numbers sewn into clothing
23 in order to make sure that you got your right shirt or
24 jumper or trousers back to you --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- but the suggestion of numbers being used as
2 an identifier in terms of calling numbers rather than
3 names, but your experience was always it was your name
4 you were known by. You were not -- you don't have any
5 recollection of ever being looked for by number?

6 **A. No. I was always referred to by name. The numbers were**
7 **just simply for clothing, clothing items, so that they**
8 **could be identified after being laundered.**

9 Q. Now there's a number of issues that I want to -- to look
10 at. The first one is supervision --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- because you mention this across your statements in
13 a number of different places and a number of different
14 ways and, in fact, SR2 herself has raised the same point
15 that you have made about the small number of them
16 compared to the large number of children.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. So at SND-15805 you make a point of there were 60 -- in
19 the '60s -- just scroll down. Yes. Just stop there,
20 please.

21 "In Termonbacca ... two nuns totally responsible for
22 looking after somewhere between what I believe was 80 to
23 100 boys aged between about 6 to 16."

24 So it was 1:50, as it were, was the rough -- or 1:40
25 to 1:50 was what was going on in the '60s pre the change

1 in build and then the introduction of civilian staff.

2 **A. That's correct, yes.**

3 Q. You mention that again at SND-15808 at the bottom of the
4 page. Now you draw attention to the -- this is a point
5 that we'll come across from a number of statements that
6 you've made in your three statements, but you make the
7 point that because there were so few of them and there
8 were times when they simply weren't around, the
9 opportunity for difficulty presented itself. You make
10 the point here:

11 "Given that the nuns could not have been in the
12 boys' unit 24/7 due to having to attend the convent
13 section for daily formal prayers, mass, etc and for
14 their meals, and given that certainly in the 1960s when
15 there were few, if any, adult staff available to
16 supervise the children in their absence, they would most
17 likely have to leave some of the older boys in charge."

18 That is in effect what -- what happened. You can
19 recall that needing to be the case, in effect, because
20 there weren't more than the two of them.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You go on and say:

23 "I am pretty confident that the majority of those
24 older boys would have conducted those supervisory duties
25 in a fit and proper manner, but, of course, there would

1 have been the opportunity for some of those supervisors
2 and other older boys to take advantage of the absence of
3 the nuns during those particular periods."

4 So there's a qualification that you're putting on it
5 and we'll come to your own experience --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- but you're recognising the difficulty --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- that the staff ratio and the leaving the children in
10 the hands of other boys presented.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You mention at SND-15820 how, whenever you left
13 Termonbacca

14

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- and then moved into the world of work --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but you were still visiting, and you say here:

19 "Although I had left Termonbacca, I still regularly
20 visited, as it was still, after all, my home. When
21 I visited, I used to help out with a wide range of
22 chores, such as helping maintain the gardens and hedges,
23 washing the nuns' car and minibus, sometimes driving the
24 nuns and children on trips in their car or minibus."

25 If I can just pause there on the issue of

1 supervision --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- and something else that you mention in your
4 statement, you talk about -- this is a name that
5 shouldn't be reported -- you remember SND1 driving the
6 children to school in the minibus --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and then picking the children up in the minibus.

9 **A. Yes, afterwards.**

10 Q. I was asking earlier did you ever get to be in the car
11 with him that he also drove, and you could recollect
12 that you did have that opportunity.

13 **A. Yes. I mean, the -- there would probably have been**
14 **other occasions, but I know around Christmas time the**
15 **Sisters would have made lots of homemade Christmas**
16 **puddings, and then a lot of them would be wrapped up in**
17 **Christmas wrapping and basically as presents for lots of**
18 **people who had helped out at Termonbacca over the year,**
19 **and SND1 normally would be tasked every Christmas with**
20 **delivering all these presents with a card to doctors,**
21 **dentists, priests, etc, and there were several times**
22 **when I went out with him in the car to help him deliver**
23 **these items.**

24 I have been in the car with him loads of other times
25 as well. In fact, I remember even as a young child I

1 have a vague recollection of being in the old grey
2 Zephyr when the main entrance used to be Braehead Road,
3 because -- I don't know if you know the layout, but
4 towards the end the main entrance to Termonbacca was via
5 Southway, but when I was very young, the main entrance
6 was the Braehead entrance. I have got recollections of
7 being in the car with SND1 and coming up Braehead Road
8 and turning into the lane itself. So I've been in cars
9 many times, because he was the driver for many years as
10 well.

11 Q. Would there have been other children had similar
12 experience to you, being a chance to be in the car?

13 A. **I am sure, yes, yes.**

14 Q. I think the Inquiry has -- in fact, there is a laminated
15 version in front of you that assists with the sketch
16 that we have been making use of at SND-5735, which
17 demonstrates the point you are making about the two
18 entrances.

19 A. **Uh-huh. Yes.**

20 Q. We can see the Southway entrance --

21 A. **Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- and then you have got the farm and Braehead Road
23 entrance.

24 A. **Yes. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. So I was on supervision, and you have addressed the

1 problem that that potentially created --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- but you yourself then in the context of HIA60 -- and
4 we will come to deal with that at the end --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- but at SND-15792 is a -- this is an e-mail that you
7 had sent to him. I am just looking at it from the point
8 of view of supervision. Just down to the bottom,
9 please. You make the point:

10 "When you arrived, you were regularly getting into
11 fisticuffs with other boys and constantly challenging
12 the authority of the nuns. On occasions as one of the
13 older boys I was asked to supervise the group when the
14 nuns were absent and you constantly challenged my
15 authority when I had to intervene to prevent you
16 fighting with other children."

17 So there you yourself are recording that you,
18 presumably because of your relationship with SR2 --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- were asked to be involved in looking after SR2's
21 group when she wasn't around.

22 **A. Yes, although SR2 wasn't there when HIA 60 -- it was
23 SR1. This was '79?**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. SR2 left '78. So ... So in some respects my**

1 involvement with the group would have been much less
2 compared to when SR2 -- you know, my visits would have
3 been less frequent.

4 Q. Yes, but this would have been SR1 getting you to look
5 after the boys when she is away.

6 A. Yes, although I'd probably clarify it really, because
7 some -- supervision can mean lots of things. You know,
8 it can be -- like I think , you know, you
9 would be given a and, "Here's your .
10 You're the supervisor and here's your role and
11 responsibility". There was never anything formal as
12 such. In fact, there may have -- I wouldn't even say
13 I was told to look after the group. It was merely
14 a case of you happened to be there. You were the older
15 person. If somebody -- because there were staff looking
16 after the children. If -- I mean, HIA60 was only in
17 Termonbacca for about a year or so and he -- he was --
18 you know, he was somebody who obviously had -- appeared
19 to me to have lots of baggage. He was a hard case. He
20 was getting involved in lots of fights with other boys
21 in the home and obviously negative interactions with
22 some of the nuns. So there were occasions when you had
23 to physically pull him away from other people, but that
24 was done -- and I know I have used some sort of fairly
25 formal language, you know, "He failed to respond".

1 I mean, I was the older -- it's like if you are living
2 at home and your mum and dad went out and you were the
3 older brother, they would say, "Keep an eye on the
4 kids", you know, or they wouldn't even have to ask. You
5 would just do it. So one thing is there was no formal
6 supervisory role that I had. I just happened to be
7 there, and if something bad happened, you would do what
8 any responsible adult would do, which is to intervene,
9 and there were several occasions when I had to
10 physically pull HIA60 away from other people, because he
11 was -- forever he was getting into fights with other
12 boys, not fights with me, but other boys.

13 Q. At this point in time we are talking about you are

14 A. About , now. , yes. Uh-huh.

15 Q. And you say the same thing in another e-mail to
16 a colleague. SND-155790 (sic), and then down at the
17 bottom of that page -- SND-55790. Right. We have got
18 a -- I am giving you an incorrect reference. SND-15790.
19 The Inquiry Solicitor comes to my rescue. Yes. Down at
20 the bottom you're -- this is an e-mail in to
21 a colleague. Just further down, please. Just -- yes.

22 "As I was one of the older guys in the house, I was
23 sometimes asked to help supervise" -- if we just scroll
24 on to the next page -- "other residents when the nuns
25 had to go off and pray, etc."

1 So the point, if I have understood, you are making
2 is you weren't formally employed to do this --

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. -- but occasions whenever you are there visiting --

5 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- the nun that's there is going off and it has been
7 said to you, "Just keep an eye on the boys" or whatever
8 --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- something of that order.

11 **A. Yes, more or less. It was a fairly informal**
12 **arrangement, you know. There was nothing formalised**
13 **about it.**

14 Q. Yes. We will come back to look at the HIA60 context
15 slightly later.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You mention at SND-15806 a particular recollection you
18 have about an issue of bedwetting --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- which is something the Inquiry has heard a lot of
21 evidence about.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You remember -- yes -- the section that begins:

24 "At night-time ..."

25 So you describe particularly here -- I should say

1 you have no recollection of anyone being humiliated over
2 bedwetting --

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. -- that you can recall?

5 **A. No. I mean, I saw that process as a preventative**
6 **measure, if you like. They were trying to prevent**
7 **people wetting the beds and, rightly or wrongly, the**
8 **assumption was that if they were got up at night -- it**
9 **might have been 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock -- and made to**
10 **go to the toilet, it might make it less likely that they**
11 **wet their bed, but it wasn't seen as a humiliation**
12 **process. It was just to try to deter bedwetting.**

13 Q. What you are describing here, as I understand it, is
14 like a mackintosh type sheet on the ground and a bucket
15 set in the middle of it --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and the children would be encouraged to get up and
18 pee in the bucket.

19 **A. That's correct. yes.**

20 Q. The point you make is whatever the rationale behind it,
21 you, reflecting on it, don't think it was terribly
22 effective, because the children still wet the bed in any
23 event.

24 **A. Yes. I mean, I am sure it was done with the best of**
25 **intentions. I mean, the other thing as well, I am not**

1 too sure why we didn't use the toilets or they didn't
2 use the toilets. I mean, I am not too sure what the
3 rationale was for using a bucket rather than the
4 toilets. It may have been that they were just too far
5 away, but, you know, it happened, but I don't think at
6 the time any of us saw it -- I certainly didn't see it
7 as a humiliating sort of process. It was just something
8 that was done because there appeared to be lots of
9 bedwetting and I suppose they just wanted to stop people
10 wetting the bed, but, as I have said, I don't think it
11 was that effective really.

12 Q. The ones -- you were not one of the people who wet the
13 bed.

14 A. No.

15 Q. The ones who did were known as the "Wet the Beds".

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Perhaps quite a bit of teasing from boys on boys --

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. -- about that problem. Is that fair?

20 A. Yes. I'm sure some of them. I mean, I suppose there
21 would be some more regular bedwetters. I mean, some
22 might do it infrequently, but there probably would be
23 a few who would be almost on a daily basis. So more
24 likely the regular bed wetters would be the subject of
25 the usual schoolboy sort of type jibes of "Wet the

1 **Beds", you know, "Bedwetter", but I didn't accuse anyone**
2 **of being a bedwetter, but no. As I say, that's --**
3 **I mean, that happens, you know.**

4 Q. Now you then, if we look at SND-15812, in a detailed way
5 -- and I am not going to go through all of the detail of
6 it, because the Panel has had the opportunity to read it
7 already --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- but you talk very clearly about the change -- what
10 I call the transition -- from the old style set-up of
11 the large dormitories, junior and senior, to moving into
12 the huts. You have a particular word for them. It is
13 not "hut".

14 **A. The "wagon wheel"? The "temporary accommodation" is**
15 **what I call it.**

16 Q. Yes. You had a word for the shape of them. I may be
17 wrong.

18 **A. The wagon -- the wagon -- the wagon wheel?**

19 Q. The wagon wheel --

20 **A. Yes, it was like.**

21 Q. -- you describe them as. You moved towards the late
22 --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- into these -- one was the old cottage that the
25 ex-residents who lived on the premises had lived in --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- and it was changed into a dormitory for one set of
3 boys.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Then another shed type structure was created for the
6 other group.

7 **A. Well, the old cottage was actually an all-inclusive type**
8 **building for one of the groups. They had dormitories,**
9 **a kitchen area, a refectory area, a play area. That was**
10 **all one unit for one of the groups, and then SR2's group**
11 **was split over three separate buildings. There was the**
12 **old chicken house, which had been converted into sort of**
13 **a dining room cum living area. Then there was**
14 **a purpose-built building, which was a dormitory, which**
15 **was built -- the corrugated roof looked like one of**
16 **those wagons you see in the westerns, which is where**
17 **I got that nickname. Then there was a further third**
18 **outbuilding, where there were some toilets and some**
19 **place to store shoes and clothing, etc. So one group**
20 **had the old cottage and then SR2's group had three**
21 **separate buildings for themselves.**

22 Q. And one of the points you make -- and I am just going to
23 summarise it --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- but over various passages in your statement --

1 various complaints have been made about that period
2 living in that accommodation.

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You make the point well, there were nuns living there as
5 well --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and it was part of providing a better standard of
8 accommodation --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- which you then describe as a "palace" after it was
11 constructed.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You describe at SND-15812 the -- if we just scroll down
14 a little further, remember in the late s you describe
15 the Termonbacca Aid Association.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. It had two aspects you remember.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. The senior part of the committee were those who drove
20 the flashier cars like Jaguars.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. Then you had the next layer down was the junior aspect
23 of the committee --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- but it raised money to facilitate or as part of the

1 money that was required --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- to engage in this rebuilding exercise.

4 **A. Yes. I think actually it was £50,000 which was the sum**
5 **they were looking. It was amazing that you could do so**
6 **much with £50,000 then, but I think that was the target**
7 **figure to build the new -- the new accommodation.**

8 Q. Yes. I think from other documents it may be there are
9 -- there was more money coming from other directions as
10 well.

11 **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

12 Q. But you can specifically recall this group of
13 businessmen who were doing their bit to try and help
14 improve the way things operated in Termonbacca and
15 provide better accommodation.

16 **A. I mean, I would say that they also helped with the**
17 **transition arrangements, because the accommodation --**
18 **the temporary accommodation had to be prepared, and as**
19 **part of the workmen, if you like, moving out of their**
20 **old cottage, there was a new building actually built for**
21 **them, and that was actually volunteers who were linked**
22 **to the Termonbacca Aid Association, and obviously the**
23 **buildings had to be -- the dormitory had to be built as**
24 **well. So they not only provided the work for the new**
25 **building. They also helped with the transition**

1 **arrangements, the temporary accommodation.**

2 Q. You describe then -- at SND-15813 you describe the
3 detail of living in the transition arrangements.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Then at SND-15815 -- you place it in mid . We
6 haven't got a precise date. I am not sure whether
7 perhaps your diary may -- it came a little later, so it
8 probably won't. At some stage for you, whether it was
9 --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- some time in around that period then you recall
12 moving into the new -- if we can just scroll down
13 further, please:

14 "When we eventually moved into the newly constructed
15 building, some time in the mid , it was truly like
16 moving into a palace."

17 You talk about the large TV and dining room, walk-in
18 showers and decent toilets. Instead of the dormitory
19 there were bedrooms for the children. Those were rooms
20 where there might have been three beds.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. There were then some single rooms, which you eventually
23 got as you became one of the older boys.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And areas to play?

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. And two basically identical units were created --

3 **A. Uh-huh, yes.**

4 Q. -- in the home for the two groups --

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. -- that the two nuns looked after.

7 **A. Yes. I think the plan was rather than go back to the**
8 **old format of big dormitories it was to try to make it**
9 **look like a proper home, proper house, proper bedrooms,**
10 **you know, rather than the old place, which was two big**
11 **dormitories. So it was to give it more of a normal**
12 **family feel.**

13 Q. And the move into the new accommodation, with that came
14 increasing civilian staff involvement, the likes of
15 SND332 --

16 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- being on site, so a more -- a social worker present
18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- on a full-time basis --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and a general improvement in how things operated.

23 **A. Yes. I think again with the bedrooms, I mean, there**
24 **would have been some occasions towards the s where**
25 **there may have been some brothers, you know, family**

1 members living in the unit together. So they would
2 probably be sharing the same bedroom. So it was, you
3 know, keeping -- keeping them together, you know, in the
4 same bedroom rather than sort of the old -- the old
5 place, where they were spread into separate dormitories.

6 Q. So just if I unpack that a little with you, SND76, if
7 I can --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- there was a greater emphasis placed post the change
10 of accommodation to keeping -- never mind the age
11 splits, which is how the junior and senior dorm had
12 operated. Now there was more emphasis on, "Well, that's
13 the family of . So they have got a room
14 together", that sort of emphasis. Is that fair?

15 A. It certainly was, because -- and it could happen because
16 -- in the old building it couldn't be done. The
17 temporary accommodation it certainly couldn't be done,
18 especially when you had girls, because -- the temporary
19 accommodation only had boys. There was nowhere you
20 could have had girls. When the new unit opened, girls
21 and boys were actually in the same group. So you could
22 keep families together. I am not sure sisters and
23 brothers shared the same bedroom, but certainly -- but
24 I think the emphasis was to keep them together in the
25 group, and if they were boys or girls, share the same

1 **bedroom.**

2 Q. Now you discuss in considerable detail at SND-15814 and
3 then into SND-15815 your experience -- during the
4 transition phase you were living in the temporary
5 accommodation --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- but of the troubles effectively coming to
8 Termonbacca.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. The Panel has had the opportunity to read the detail of
11 what you've said, but I summarise it in this way. There
12 were occasions whenever the IRA made use of the premises
13 to come in.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You can recall, for instance, gun battles taking place
16 between the army and the IRA effectively across the top
17 of the temporary accommodation that you were all
18 residing in.

19 **A. That's correct. Basically, as I've said before, we are**
20 **on the border with the Creggan. The Creggan then was**
21 **a no-go area for the police and army, and the police --**
22 **not so much the police -- the army regularly used our**
23 **grounds to monitor the Creggan, and there was large**
24 **fields near to the home. Many times they would be in**
25 **the fields at night-time, and invariably they would**

1 sometimes be seen by the IRA and then there would be
2 an exchange of obviously gunfire -- weapons. I mean,
3 there were times when you could literally hear the
4 soldiers outside the building, literally, you know,
5 outside the building. You could recognise their strong
6 British accents shouting orders, and you could hear the
7 shooting, and many nights we had to literally get out of
8 our beds and lie on the floor.

9 Q. Just take your time. Take your time.

10 A. And lie on the floor.

11 Q. You describe a particular occasion whenever the IRA
12 dumped the body of a UDR soldier that they had kidnapped
13 and killed in the Termonbacca grounds.

14 A. That's correct, near the entrance, Braehead Road
15 entrance, which at that time wasn't being used any more.
16 The main entrance was Southway, but the body was inside.
17 I think it was found by the then, SND15. He
18 actually found the body and obviously notified the
19 authorities.

20 Q. You then talk about -- and I appreciate this again
21 causes you difficulty, so I am going to work through it
22 with you -- the -- you talk in your statement about how
23 SR2 made a point of engaging the IRA and asking that
24 they not come into the premises --

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. -- and making a point of seeking out a particular high
2 level figure and asking him to ensure that boys who
3 might have been ripe for recruiting, if I can put it
4 that way --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- were not recruited.

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. Now you don't mention this in your statement, but from
9 speaking to me beforehand you mentioned tension that you
10 know arising between SR2 and SR 7 --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- who was the Mother Superior.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you just explain what the tension was over this
15 issue?

16 A. Yes. Well, my recollection is SR 7 didn't
17 really want SR2 contacting this particular high level
18 IRA man, who obviously I mentioned his name this
19 morning, and maybe because -- I think she probably
20 misunderstood what the -- what the nature of that
21 interaction was. She may have thought that there was
22 some support on the part of the nuns for the IRA
23 whereas, in fact, what SR2 was trying to do was say,
24 "Listen, (a) can you try to keep your members off our
25 grounds? You know, don't be engaging in sort of gun

1 battles or terrorist activities with the IRA in our
2 grounds, because you are putting the lives of the
3 children -- the residents at risk", but I think she also
4 was -- I mean, I suppose the term we use nowadays when
5 we talk about Islamic terrorism is we talk about
6 radicalisation. I think a lot of the boys who left
7 Termonbacca at 15, 16, 17, they were living in digs in
8 the areas where the IRA was pretty strong, and they were
9 probably ripe for being radicalised. I think SR2 was
10 very concerned that some of them could be exploited.

11 One of the specific things I know that she did was
12 ask this particular named individual to discourage any
13 of those ex-Termonbacca boys from getting involved. If
14 they joined -- if they, you know, made contact and
15 wanted to join, discourage them, because she was
16 concerned that they could be exploited, and in many
17 respects -- I know some people have said that when they
18 left Termonbacca, they were abandoned, but she kept in
19 contact with a lot of the ex-boys. In fact, some of the
20 more difficult boys were the ones she was most likely to
21 keep in contact, because she was worried for them and
22 what they could get involved in. So she definitely made
23 contact with that named individual and asked him to
24 discourage.

25 Now I am not saying that none of the ex-Termonbacca

1 boys got involved with the IRA, but I certainly don't
2 remember many getting involved, and it is possible that
3 her direct contact with that named individual may have
4 had a direct impact in preventing that happening.

5 Q. So -- and you know this because she confided in you
6 about what she had done to try and keep her boys, as it
7 were, in the home away --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- from engaging.

10 A. Yes. This is something I had heard from her directly
11 several times when I had spoken to her. She had told me
12 what she had done and she told me what her motivation
13 was. I think in some respects I can understand where
14 SR 7 was coming from. She probably would have
15 thought that any contact with a terrorist is a bad
16 thing, but I am sure even the people involved in the
17 peace process know that you need to speak to sometimes
18 unpalatable people if you want to achieve what you want
19 to achieve. She wanted to keep the ex-Termonbacca boys
20 away from being involved in terrorism and she probably
21 quite rightly identified that they would be ripe for
22 exploitation, and I am pretty confident that the impact
23 she had there, you know, did prevent some of them from
24 directly getting involved with -- with terrorism.

25 Q. You -- what I want to do now, SND76, is just look at the

1 allegation that HIA60 has made --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- in respect of you.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. As I said to you beforehand, the Inquiry has heard from
6 HIA60.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. You took the opportunity to provide the Inquiry with
9 a specific statement. You had provided 20 pages of
10 detail --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- before he gave evidence --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and then after he gave evidence you provided the
15 Inquiry with a ten-page statement of detail, having
16 looked at what he had to say. As I said to you, the
17 Panel has had the opportunity to read that and the
18 materials around the issue that has arisen between you
19 and him, and I don't want to go into the detail of that
20 other than to draw attention to the fact that the
21 Inquiry has those documents --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- and has read those documents, so that it's not --

24 I don't want it to be suggested I am glossing over it --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- because the Panel has had the opportunity to see the
2 detail of the matters, but what I do want to do, the
3 e-mails that I showed you earlier, I just want to go
4 back to those and use those as the grounding for what
5 I am going to ask you to deal with.

6 The first one is the SND-15791, and towards the
7 bottom of this page -- now this is you -- just to put
8 this in context, this is in 2005.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. In there had been a police investigation. That
11 resulted in of (sic) -- and I will give the
12 reference to the Panel Members, SND-15576 -- a direction
13 from the Director of Public Prosecutions that you were
14 not to be prosecuted, and that investigation was
15 based on an allegation of attempted indecent assault.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. You make the point very clearly in your statement about
18 how the suggestion that what's being described was in
19 some way sexual only arrived many, many years after the
20 incident that's being described, if I can try and
21 paraphrase it in that way.

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. So all of that has happened, and in a particular
24 issue arises over e-mailing. On you are
25 e-mailing a colleague, and you are describing, if we

1 just scroll down, please -- by way of explanation, you
2 -- scroll up for me, please. SND-15791. Yes. Just
3 stop there for me. You make the point that:

4 "I was one of the older guys in the house. I was
5 sometimes asked to supervise when the nuns would go off
6 to pray."

7 You made the point, which you have referred to
8 earlier in brief terms in your evidence, that:

9 "He was always getting into fights with other guys,
10 requiring me to have to intervene and separate them ...
11 made an allegation to the police" -- just scroll down,
12 please -- "on one of the occasions when I physically
13 intervened and pushed him into another room that I had
14 intended to sexually assault him. However, when he was
15 quizzed by the police, he admitted he'd not been
16 sexually assaulted, but believed the intention was in my
17 mind to do it."

18 Now -- then there is another e-mail from him just
19 before I ask you the question -- from you to him at
20 SND-15792, which is sent a number of days later on
21 21st November 2005. Just scroll down, please. Scroll
22 down further, please. Stop there. It is the last
23 paragraph. We looked at it briefly previously:

24 "When you arrived, you were ... getting into
25 fisticuffs with other boys ... challenging the authority

1 of the nuns. On occasions as one of the older boys
2 I was asked to supervise the group when the nuns were
3 absent, and you constantly challenged my authority when
4 I had to intervene to prevent you fighting with other
5 children. On some occasions this necessitated my having
6 to physically separate you from your victims, using only
7 reasonable force and no more."

8 Now if I can summarise it, you are in these e-mails
9 indicating there were occasions whenever you intervened
10 with him physically --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but if I can summarise it in this way, your position
13 clearly is there was nothing sexual about those
14 interventions on any occasion --

15 **A. Absolutely not.**

16 Q. -- and you don't have -- there's a particular reference
17 to the new jumper --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- that was being ripped and his belief about the
20 circumstances of that, but whether a jumper got ripped
21 or not in any one of these particular incidents, there
22 was certainly nothing of a sexual nature to it as far as
23 you are concerned.

24 **A. 100% no.**

25 Q. What you are describing you are saying is no more than

1 an older boy physically intervening --

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- with a younger boy who needed to be stopped doing
4 whatever it was they were doing.

5 **A. Just breaking up the fight basically.**

6 Q. And that was you at this stage -- you would have been
7 --

8 **A. Uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- performing that quasi-super... -- not in a official
10 capacity --

11 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but quasi-supervisory role whenever there weren't
13 necessarily nuns around to do the breaking up
14 themselves.

15 **A. That's correct, yes.**

16 Q. You have -- as I indicated to you earlier, the Panel has
17 the statements and has looked at all of the detail of it
18 and can see you expressing your view strongly as to why
19 this might be now said.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. I am not going to get into any of that today, because
22 the position, you have set it out, and what you are
23 indicating is whatever occurred between you, there was
24 nothing sexual to it.

25 **A. Never, never was.**

1 Q. Now what I want to do in just short form at the end --
2 you have already made the points about your positive
3 experience and how your interaction with SR2 as a mother
4 to you was a very positive one. I just want to ask you
5 whether there's anything else at this point --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- that -- you have the opportunity. You are aware of
8 the Panel having read all of the material.

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. Whether there's anything else you think I haven't
11 covered that you want to draw attention to beyond the
12 indication in your statements that you were very
13 thankful for the upbringing that you had.

14 **A. Yes. I mean, I am not sure exactly how far I can go,**
15 **but obviously what I have done is look at all the**
16 **evidence on the Inquiry website for the first five, six**
17 **weeks. I have --**

18 Q. If I can -- as to that, as I said to you beforehand --

19 **A. Sorry.**

20 Q. -- the Inquiry has read those documents --

21 **A. Okay.**

22 Q. -- and will form its view about everyone -- including
23 you obviously --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- everyone who comes before it.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. But if I can summarise what I think you are going to go
3 into, you have a view that people are perhaps going
4 further than is justified --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- in maligning people that you hold in high esteem, who
7 you felt did their best for you.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Is that fair?

10 **A. But also not just because I hold them in high esteem.**
11 **I don't like anyone to be the subject of false**
12 **allegations, irrespective of my relationship with them**
13 **--**

14 Q. Yes?

15 **A. -- and I just obviously, as you are aware, have grave**
16 **concerns about some of the allegations made by some of**
17 **the victims. I have never denied that people have been**
18 **victims. It would be stupid, and any -- any -- anything**
19 **I have said in my statements and anything I have said in**
20 **the has always acknowledged that there are**
21 **victims, but I genuinely, genuinely believe that some**
22 **people have told lies in relation to some of the**
23 **allegations that have been made, serious lies.**

24 Q. So it's the extent --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- that is the issue for you?

2 **A. Well, that's it, because, I mean, in some respects when**
3 **I look at some of the evidence given by some of the**
4 **people, I have to ask myself, "Did I live there? Is**
5 **this the same place I lived in?", because I lived there,**
6 **and if all these bad things were happening -- I lived**
7 **there for 18 years -- I am sure I would have been aware,**
8 **and there's no way I'm going to, you know, tell lies and**
9 **try and deny that bad things happened if they did**
10 **happen. If bad things happened, I am certainly not**
11 **going to cover that up. I know for a fact that a lot of**
12 **these things that are alleged to have happened just**
13 **can't have happened, you know.**

14 Q. Equally you are accepting of the fact that many of the
15 things that are alleged could have happened and you
16 don't know of them?

17 **A. Oh, yes, and that's it.**

18 Q. It wasn't your experience.

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. You were not abused in the way that others have alleged
21 they were.

22 **A. No, no.**

23 Q. Obviously that's a matter for the Panel to weigh up and
24 consider.

25 **A. Certainly, yes.**

1 Q. I don't intend to ask you any further questions, SND76.
2 It may be that the Panel Members will want to ask you
3 something. If you just bear with us for a while. Just
4 stay where you are, and, like all witnesses, the Inquiry
5 is very grateful for you coming to give your evidence
6 today.

7 Questions from THE PANEL

8 MR LANE: In the late '60s and early '70s you said that's
9 when volunteers and additional paid staff came along.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Do you remember anything? Was it volunteers first who
12 then started to be paid or anything? Do you have any
13 recollection of how things changed?

14 **A. I think the first volunteer I can remember actually was**
15 **SND 194 . I remember SND 194 in the old**
16 **building when I was about coming up to help. I'm**
17 **sure there were other volunteers, but certainly it was**
18 **volunteers first, and then actually towards the end of**
19 **the old Termonbacca I do remember there were some paid**
20 **staff did start coming, but the volunteers first and**
21 **then some paid staff, and then we certainly had some**
22 **paid staff in the temporary buildings and obviously**
23 **certainly in the new building, but volunteers first.**

24 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 CHAIRMAN: Was the lady you just mentioned, SND 194

2 SND 194 , was she the lady who also went to

3 --

4 **A. That's correct, yes.**

5 Q. -- that you mentioned earlier?

6 **A. Yes. She was a very good friend of SR2.**

7 Q. Did she enter the religious life herself or simply go to
8 and get what I might call civilian work?

9 **A. Yes. What happened was SND 194 -- SND 194 did initially**
10 **go off to train to become a nun. I think she did two or**
11 **three years in Hammersmith, which is the headquarters of**
12 **the Sisters. I think she decided it wasn't the life for**
13 **her, but she then continued to work as an**
14 **employed member of staff. I think when SR2 went to**
15 **, she ended up going to , working in**
16 **SR2's group in subsequently.**

17 Q. Thank you very much.

18 **A. Thank you.**

19 Q. I don't think we need to ask you any more, SND76.

20 **A. Thank you.**

21 Q. Thank you for coming to speak to us today.

22 **A. Okay.**

23 **(Witness withdrew)**

24 MR AIKEN: That, Members of the Panel, concludes today's
25 evidence.

1 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 10.30 tomorrow, ladies and gentlemen.

2 (2.47 pm)

3 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

4 --ooOoo--

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