
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Thursday, 10th April 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 26)

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

1 Thursday, 10th April 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 WITNESS SND43 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Mr Aiken.

5 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning.

6 The first witness this morning is SND43.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Just one -- yes, Mr McGrory.

8 MR McGRORY: Good morning, Mr Chairman. May I enter my
9 appearance on behalf of HIA144, and I am attended by
10 Mr Mark Reel, who is my junior counsel, and also Mrs
11 Hegarty from the firm Walter Hegarty Solicitors.

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr McGrory.

13 MR McGRORY: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN: Mr Doran.

15 MR DORAN: Mr Chairman, I appear for the first witness, and
16 my instructing solicitor is Mr McShane of McCartan
17 Turkington Breen Solicitors.

18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Yes.

19 MR AIKEN: Chairman, the first witness this morning, which
20 involves Mr Doran, is SND43, SND43, and she is "SND43".
21 She is aware that you are going to speak to her about
22 taking the oath or affirming.

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

24 Do you wish to either take a religious oath or to
25 make an affirmation, which is a solemn promise? They

1 have the same legal effect. It is entirely a matter for
2 you to choose.

3 **A. I'll take the oath.**

4 Q. Very well.

5 WITNESS SND43 (sworn)

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

7 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

8 MR AIKEN: Bring up on the screen, please, SND-15873.

9 SND43, I'm going to ask you two different matters about
10 this, but the first thing is would you just look at this
11 document and just check that it's the same as the hard
12 copy version which you have and you can see what's under
13 the redactions that are on the screen.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And I want you to go, please, to the last page of the
16 hard copy that you have at SND-15879, and again can I
17 ask you to confirm that you have actually signed -- we
18 can see a redaction on the screen in place of your name
19 -- but that you've actually signed the statement?

20 **A. I have.**

21 Q. And you want to adopt the contents of this statement --

22 **A. Yes --**

23 Q. -- as your evidence to the Inquiry?

24 **A. -- I do.**

25 Q. The second issue that I want to address with the

1 redactions, this relates to the Inquiry's anonymity
2 policy. The Inquiry has determined that, with a number
3 of other individuals, you have been given anonymity up
4 to this point. Anonymity is an individual issue as
5 well, and I want to ask you to confirm whether you want
6 to keep your anonymity?

7 **A. I do, yes.**

8 Q. You do.

9 Now if we can go back to SND-15873, please, and can
10 I say to you, SND43, the Inquiry Panel has had the
11 opportunity to see the witness statements of HIA127 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and HIA233 and has heard evidence from HIA127 and
14 HIA233 and has also had your witness statement. So in
15 that context I am not going to go through all of the
16 matters in minute detail, because the Panel has had the
17 opportunity to read the material in advance. I am going
18 to summarise the main issues and ask if there's anything
19 further you want to add.

20 Before I do that can I try to set some context with
21 you? You indicate in paragraph 2 of your statement --
22 it's blacked out -- but you are now, with
23 a birthday on the way, and I apologise for
24 embarrassing you as a result, but you left school at 16
25 and went to do a childcare course in the

1 and that course -- we can't quite
2 remember the right acronym for it, but it was a two-year
3 course of placements and study. Is that right?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And once you had completed that course in childcare you
6 took up a role in , when you were aged ,
7 with the Sisters of Nazareth in their Bishop Street
8 children's home.

9 **A. I did.**

10 Q. What I want to ask you: was that the very first time you
11 had been in Bishop Street or had you been in the
12 building before you began working there?

13 **A. I had been in the building before.**

14 Q. And what were the circumstances around you being in the
15 building before?

16 **A. Well, I was at school with a girl who was in the**
17 **Nazareth House. So I would have been in once or twice**
18 **with her. At then I became a and**
19 **three of the young girls resident in Nazareth House were**
20 **in the club I was in. So I would have taken them home**
21 **in the evening, and I would have been in then.**

22 Q. Can I ask you about your first impression of going to
23 Nazareth House that very first time and going in?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. How would you -- I appreciate your view may have changed

1 over time --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- but what was your first impression?

4 **A. Scary. Very big doors and statues and -- yes.**

5 Q. So when you -- when you went in, what was it that -- in
6 addition to the size of the front door and the statues
7 that were there what was it that made it scary as far as
8 you were concerned?

9 **A. Just that.**

10 Q. And is that something that passed away quite quickly?

11 **A. Yes. Once you entered the children's flats, once you
12 entered the individual flats, yes.**

13 Q. Now when you began working there in , the form of
14 the children's home had changed and it now was two units
15 of ten beds per unit --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and over two floors. Is that right?

18 **A. Well, yes. There would have been more than ten beds.**

19 Q. There were more than ten beds --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- still at that stage?

22 **A. In there would have been, yes.**

23 Q. Were there ten beds in each unit?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So twenty beds. That's -- my apologies. That's what

1 I am intending to convey. So you're fine.

2 **A. No, I mean there would have been maybe 12 or 13 children**
3 **in the -- in a unit in , in one unit.**

4 Q. So 26?

5 **A. There could have been.**

6 Q. Something like that?

7 **A. Could have possibly been.**

8 Q. Can I just -- if we bring up SND-6441, which is
9 a document -- if we can just increase the size of that,
10 you can see your designation slightly further down,
11 SND-43 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- four up from the bottom. This is saying that you
14 began working as far as the payroll
15 was concerned. I just want to ground this document with
16 you, if I can. You can see to the right -- you can see
17 your wage that you earned back then.

18 **A. I can.**

19 Q. And you can also see "PT " and " ".

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Now can I confirm " " is talking about ?

22 **A. It was, yes.**

23 Q. So that's the role that you played --

24 **A. It was.**

25 Q. -- in terms of how it was classified, and the point is

1 the position on the pay scale?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So if we just scroll a little up to the top so we can
4 see the titles, so this is giving a list of the civilian
5 staff who worked across two units in and around April
6 1990, and what it is telling us, if we use the point
7 reference, is you were the most member of
8 staff in terms you were on whereas most of the
9 others were on --

11 **A. I was the there, yes.**

12 Q. And you have been able -- and I am not going to go
13 through it now, but if I can just -- you have been able
14 to indicate who worked in unit 2 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- which was on the top floor, and unit 2 was where you
17 worked.

18 **A. Yes, it was.**

19 Q. And when you began, SR 18, who ultimately went
20 off to you believe and then, was the
21 person in charge of your unit, and did her position --
22 did someone else become in charge of your unit --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- during your time? Who was that?

25 **A. SR20.**

1 Q. SR20?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Are those the two nuns that you remember that were in
4 charge of unit 2?

5 **A. No, there were six or seven nuns I worked with who were
6 in charge of unit 2.**

7 Q. So over the years until you stopped working, which was
8 -- is that right?

9 **A. 1999 when it closed.**

10 Q. '99?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You had a number of different sisters who headed up the
13 unit.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Unit 1 was on the bottom floor?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And at the time you went in it was a SR 59 and
18 SR 19 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- who shared responsibility for it. You have indicated
21 that -- on this list that the first five -- you can only
22 see the designations now --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- but the first five were people working in unit 1, and
25 then most of the rest, with one or two exceptions,

1 worked in unit 2 --

2 **A. That's right.**

3 Q. -- along with you. If we can go back, please, to
4 SND-15873, now you go on to explain then in paragraph 3
5 -- and if I just summarise this, and you can correct me
6 where I go wrong or add to it as you wish -- but you
7 have continued to work in childcare and still do?

8 **A. Yes, I do.**

9 Q. And you have essentially worked in the care of children
10 for years?

11 **A. That's right.**

12 Q. And if I were to ask you to sum up your experience of
13 working in Bishop Street during the time that you were
14 there, how would you describe it, for instance, compared
15 to -- you do similar work now.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. How would you compare working in Bishop Street then to
18 the work that you do now?

19 **A. It was pleasant. It was very pleasant. It was a joy,
20 yes.**

21 Q. What was it about the working environment that you found
22 positive?

23 **A. Everything: the youngsters, the staff, the relationship
24 with everybody just, and the homely atmosphere. There
25 was like a homely atmosphere to it, you know.**

1 Q. What's different nowadays that doesn't match that
2 experience?

3 **A. I think the society and the children we have today has**
4 **a lot to play with it and the destruction of the units**
5 **they're living in. There's no homely atmosphere when**
6 **you go into them, you know.**

7 Q. So the children who were in the unit with you in Bishop
8 Street in the '80s and '90s, were they -- they came
9 quite often with difficult backgrounds?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Had difficulty themselves?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. But you were still able to have a better relationship
14 with them than do you today. The children you are
15 looking after today, although it is it is the same type
16 of work --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- you find that more challenging.

19 **A. It's very challenging, yes.**

20 Q. And that's because of the societal change about the
21 likes of drugs and alcohol?

22 **A. Indeed.**

23 Q. So the children have greater difficulty today --

24 **A. They do.**

25 Q. -- that you are having to deal with. So your memories

1 of being a working in Bishop Street are
2 positive memories?

3 **A. Yes, they are.**

4 Q. Now there are -- you describe in paragraph 7 on
5 SND-15874 the sort of working structure and the way in
6 which you operated in the home, and you then mention, if
7 we go over to SND-15875, how in and around 1990
8 an additional working pattern was added, paragraph 8,
9 which was the sleep-in, someone who would be on call?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And then slightly later in paragraph 9 you had the
12 addition of the shift of the waking night duty.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I just want to bring up for you the documents that
15 I showed you earlier this morning that ground that,
16 which we discussed with a witness earlier this week. At
17 SND-16589 is the first of a four-page letter from

18 TL 19 ,

documenting difficulty with peer abuse occurring
20 in Harberton House in 1991 or 1990 and into 1991 and the
21 steps which were being taken, which included the
22 introduction of waking night staff as a means of
23 combating the problem.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now it is difficult I appreciate in 2014 to try to

1 remember precise time frames of things in the '80s and
2 '90s, but were you aware of peer sexual abuse as
3 an issue within your children's home in the '80s when
4 you began working there?

5 **A. No. It wouldn't have really been a -- no, it wouldn't**
6 **have been something I would have been aware of then.**

7 Q. And did it form part of your training?

8 **A. It did, yes, eventually.**

9 Q. It eventually?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. But at the time the course that you'd done and you had
12 just gone into Nazareth --

13 **A. No, that wouldn't have covered it, no.**

14 Q. It didn't form part of that training?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. But it eventually became part of your training?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. If I just bring up SND-14755, this is a document from
19 May 1993 within the Western Board, and it's talking
20 about:

21 "Waking night staff", in the second paragraph, "were
22 introduced in Nazareth in November 1992 following
23 a number of incidents in the home during the night where
24 peer abuse was suspected."

25 The last paragraph indicates:

1 "I believe the incidents that occurred in Nazareth
2 were sufficiently serious to warrant the introduction of
3 waking night staff."

4 Do you remember now what those incidents were in
5 Nazareth where you worked that brought about this
6 change, this additional shift pattern being added in of
7 the waking night staff?

8 **A. Well, specific incidents, no, I don't -- I don't have**
9 **memory of why this come about. I know there was teenage**
10 **boys and girls going out with one another and then one**
11 **or two teenage boys trying to go with some of the girls**
12 **that didn't want them to go with them, things like that,**
13 **so carrying on at bed times at night. So then the**
14 **sisters agreed then to get waking night duty as well as**
15 **ourselves, the sleep-in staff.**

16 **Q.** And can you recollect was the awareness and training
17 that you got about peer abuse something that happened
18 after the introduction of waking night staff or before
19 the introduction of waking night staff?

20 **A. No, I don't really recall that. I know there was always**
21 **the general rule the boys weren't allowed into the**
22 **girls' bedrooms and vice versa and you were mindful of**
23 **doors open when they were and each -- brothers and**
24 **sisters in each other's rooms, the doors open, things**
25 **like that, but no.**

1 Q. You can't pinpoint when the training for this --

2 **A. No, I can't, no.**

3 Q. -- particular issue arose? In terms of -- you are aware
4 of a particular incident in Bishop Street, allegations
5 against a member of staff abusing a child --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and you had some limited involvement in making
8 a police statement about that in 1996. Just for your
9 reference -- I am not going to bring it up -- it is
10 SND-15219. I am not going into that issue with you, but
11 what I want to ask you about is the awareness of staff
12 abusing children as an issue and whether you can
13 pinpoint -- if I help you, the Kincora scandal broke in
14 1980 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- in the Irish Independent. You began your work in
17 , having gone through a training course. The Hughes
18 Report was in and around 1986. There was a lot of media
19 attention before and after that on the subject.

20 Can you remember when training about being aware,
21 the steps to take to keep an eye, when that became part
22 of your package, if I can put it that way?

23 **A. No, I can't pinpoint a date or what year. I honestly**
24 **can't.**

25 Q. But it is something --

1 **A. It is something we were aware of, yes.**

2 Q. You recall it perhaps not part of your training when you
3 began your work --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- but at some point during your work --

6 **A. Definitely, yes.**

7 Q. -- it came? Now on the subject of training you had done
8 the course and, if I have understood you correctly when
9 we were discussing earlier, you didn't have training
10 within Nazareth House when you began?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. But then you were sent out on a --

13 **A. In service course in social care, yes.**

14 Q. -- social service course. That happened over a --

15 **A. One year.**

16 Q. A one-year course?

17 **A. Yes, it was.**

18 Q. So there was -- and that was with the Board, the Western
19 Board?

20 **A. Yes. That was SETWA (?), is it? Yes.**

21 Q. So there was -- there were efforts going on to train --

22 **A. There was, yes.**

23 Q. -- by that stage?

24 **A. There was.**

25 Q. And can you remember was everyone who was working with

1 you qualified or there were some members of staff not
2 qualified?

3 **A. No. At the beginning the other girl and I weren't**
4 **qualified, and then qualifications were, you know --**
5 **funding was provided for staff throughout the years then**
6 **to go at various times.**

7 Q. To do training?

8 **A. Yes, to do the social work degree.**

9 Q. Now what I want to ask you about then is -- and
10 ultimately you did that as well, did you?

11 **A. No, I didn't.**

12 Q. You didn't. You had done your in service course?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. In terms of inspections, people coming into Bishop
15 Street during your period there working, can you
16 remember people coming in to check up on you?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Can you give the Panel an idea of the different groups
19 who would have been coming in and out?

20 **A. Yes. Well, we would have had what they called voluntary**
21 **visitors. It was voluntary visitors inspectors which**
22 **was -- one was a consultant, a St. Vincent de Paul**
23 **employee, a schoolteacher and one other that I am not**
24 **100% of their designation. We then had the Reverend**
25 **Mothers.**

1 CHAIRMAN: When you say a consultant, do you mean a medical
2 ...?

3 **A. Yes, a doctor.**

4 CHAIRMAN: A doctor.

5 MR AIKEN: If I just stop you, SND43, before -- no, you are
6 fine -- before we move on from the voluntary visitors,
7 these were different people who performed the role of
8 voluntary visitor coming in?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. So it might one month have been the consultant; it might
11 have been one of the other individuals on a different
12 month?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Can you remember at what point during your working in
15 Nazareth that that practice began?

16 **A. It was there when I arrived.**

17 Q. So from --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- you believe that this voluntary visitor was coming
20 in?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And what was that voluntary visitor doing?

23 **A. They would have come in and spoke to the young people --
24 introduced themselves, spoke to the young people.**

25 **Sometimes, if it was around teatime, they would have had**

1 a coffee or a cup of tea. They checked the books, now
2 spoke to the nuns and then -- they used to sign the
3 bottom of the book actually. When they'd read the data,
4 they'd sign it, and then they would leave after a while.

5 Q. So when you say they checked the books, if we can
6 just -- there was a daybook which they looked at?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was there other books that they looked at?

9 A. Well, the nun would have had those. She would have had
10 a register of who was living there.

11 Q. So the admissions and discharge book?

12 A. Yes. The nuns did all those in .

13 Q. And was there any other type of recording that they'd
14 have looked at?

15 A. In -- no, not to my knowledge in ' .

16 Q. And this is a practice that went on throughout your
17 period?

18 A. It did indeed, yes.

19 Q. And it was every month to the best of your recollection?

20 A. It would have been, yes.

21 Q. So that's the voluntary visitor aspect. The -- were
22 there other groups who came to look at Bishop Street?

23 A. Yes. The nuns would have had their -- SR 9 or
24 the senior nun from Hammersmith would have come over and
25 there would have been inspectors from the Board.

1 Q. If we stay with SR 9 for the moment --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- can you remember how often the -- someone from
4 Hammersmith would have been coming to have a look
5 around?

6 **A. No, I can't. I would have possibly said yearly, but ...**

7 Q. And do you remember ever seeing reports on any of these
8 visits from --

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. -- either the voluntary visitors or the Hammersmith head
11 home, as it were?

12 **A. No, I wouldn't have.**

13 Q. You don't. Now you then mention the Board coming in.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can you remember what form those inspections took?

16 **A. You would have had a planned inspection at one stage
17 where you knew they were coming and then you had
18 a two-day unannounced inspection where you wouldn't have
19 known. They would have just called.**

20 Q. And what -- whenever they -- if we take the planned one
21 --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- can you remember what form that inspection took?

24 What were they doing during that period that they were
25 there?

1 **A. They would have checked the files, all the files on the**
2 **young people. They would have met with the nuns. They**
3 **would have spoken to the staff and children.**

4 Q. And was that over a number of days that they would have
5 stayed?

6 **A. I can't remember if it was two days or three.**

7 Q. And did they ever stay over?

8 **A. No, they wouldn't have. They wouldn't have stayed.**

9 Q. Did they stay to night-time to see meals happening?

10 **A. On the -- there would have been a few of them maybe, two**
11 **sometimes, would have come. One would have come in the**
12 **morning time and would have stayed over lunch or tea and**
13 **at some stages we would have had one come in first thing**
14 **in the morning to see them getting up and the morning**
15 **routine, how that was going.**

16 Q. And the unannounced inspections --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- did they follow the same form or were they different
19 in some way?

20 **A. They would have been just they would land, speak to the**
21 **nun and files would have been pulled and they would have**
22 **checked them.**

23 Q. Were there any other form of outsiders, if I can class
24 them as that, visiting the home that you can remember?

25 **A. Yes. You would have had parents and relatives visiting.**

1 Q. And --

2 **A. Friends from the youngsters.**

3 Q. -- you have mentioned the St. Vincent de Paul.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Can you remember what role did the St. Vincent de Paul
6 play?

7 **A. Well, one of them would have been the voluntary monthly
8 inspectors.**

9 Q. One of those performed part of the voluntary role?

10 **A. Yes. Would have been that, yes.**

11 Q. Was there further involvement with St. Vincent de Paul
12 beyond that person who was performing the voluntary
13 visitor role?

14 **A. Yes, but they wouldn't have been in the home a lot.
15 They would have organised Christmas parties, Du Pont men
16 to give gifts and things for the youngsters for
17 Christmas, treats, parties, things like that.**

18 Q. Is there anything else about people coming in to check
19 on how things were going that I haven't mentioned or you
20 haven't talked about?

21 **A. Not that I can remember.**

22 Q. So we've covered the range. Now --

23 **A. Sorry. There would have been social workers in the --
24 in the later -- you know, after 1980. There would have
25 been social workers coming in for meetings along with**

1 **the parents as well. Reviews were held as well. Sorry.**

2 Q. Can I unpack that a little with you? Take your time.

3 **A. It's fine.**

4 Q. You are perfectly fine. You have got water there --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and just take your time. The social workers --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- that were from the Board --

9 **A. They were.**

10 Q. -- they had -- were assigned to particular children to

11 work with them and would have visited approximately

12 monthly to see the child --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- and engage with the children that they were

15 responsible for, but in addition to that then you had

16 the reviews that you're talking about, which were either

17 six-monthly or possibly three-monthly at times?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. And that was more of a case conference --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- type arrangement?

22 **A. It would have been, yes.**

23 Q. And that not only involved the social worker and the

24 child and you but the nun in charge of the unit --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and possibly a schoolteacher or -- can you remember
2 who else would have been?

3 **A. A relative --**

4 Q. A relative?

5 **A. -- or their parents could have been there, yes, or
6 foster parents or, you know, prospective foster parents.**

7 Q. And that was to ascertain how the child was progressing?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Whether the aims for the child were --

10 **A. Being met.**

11 Q. -- being achieved --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- or what further steps needed to be taken. Was there
14 still an emphasis on trying to find foster placements
15 ultimately for the children who were there?

16 **A. Some, yes.**

17 Q. And when you say "some", were there some that simply
18 that wasn't an option?

19 **A. Yes. Well, some had a lot of family contact and we were
20 hoping to reinstate back to their families.**

21 Q. So effort was being made to reintegrate?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. But was there still in the '80s and '90s examples of
24 children who weren't a prospect for reintegrating,
25 weren't being looked to foster and simply were spending

1 their life in the children's home?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So you had three categories. So there were some
4 children who there was just no means of achieving
5 fostering with them. Is that --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And can you remember why it wasn't possible to achieve
8 fostering with that group of children?

9 **A. Well, it possibly could have been a few things: age; the**
10 **young person not wanting to be fostered; family just**
11 **want them home --**

12 Q. Was there --

13 **A. -- and the shortage of foster parents, don't forget.**

14 Q. That's what I was going to ask you. Was there
15 a shortage of foster parents --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- to allow more fostering to occur?

18 **A. Definitely.**

19 Q. Now the Bishop Street conditions, if I can get you --
20 you mentioned to me beforehand there were plants and
21 goldfish and so on. Can I ask you to try to describe a
22 unit briefly to the Panel so that it gets a favour of
23 what did a unit look like? Was it a bedroom per child
24 or was it a number of children in a bedroom or what form
25 did it take?

1 **A.** When I -- when I first went there in , it would have
2 been small dormitories, maybe possibly three, maybe four
3 children to a bedroom with wardrobes and chest of
4 drawers dividing the beds to give them privacy. I can't
5 remember if it was 1980 or earlier the renovations were
6 done, and they were all given individual bedrooms with
7 a sink and a wee desk for homeworking.

8 Q. Was that one person per room --

9 **A.** One person per room, yes.

10 Q. -- at that point?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 Q. So at some stage after your appointment in the late
13 '80s, early '90s?

14 **A.** Yes. I don't know when the renovations -- I don't know.
15 I have no memory of them.

16 Q. But they happened during the currency of you?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 Q. So it is some time after ' --

19 **A.** Definitely, yes.

20 Q. -- the change is made again to restructure so that
21 there's a single room per child?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 Q. Was at that stage the unit redecorated and enhanced in
24 some way --

25 **A.** Yes, it was.

1 Q. -- from the way it had been?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. How were things better when you had the redevelopment?

4 **A. Well, the children all had a bedroom of their own, a wee**
5 **bit of space and privacy of their own more than what**
6 **they had.**

7 Q. So that was the main benefit arising from it?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now you are aware, SND43, that really three allegations
10 but from two individuals have been made against you and
11 I am going to deal with those.

12 The first that I am going to deal with is
13 an allegation by HIA233 that she was regularly force
14 fed. I am not going to go through the detail of it,
15 because you are aware of what she said in her statement
16 --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and you have responded to it, but can I ask you this
19 question: how did the home manage children who were
20 reluctant to eat?

21 **A. Encouragement, pocket money, sweets, treats when**
22 **they're -- you know, you tried to get all the youngsters**
23 **to eat a balanced meal.**

24 Q. If I give you an example, what happened if -- for many
25 this might be close to home -- what happened if, you

1 know, the chicken curry that had been made or
2 were simply refusing to eat it? How did you deal
3 with that issue?

4 **A. Well, there would -- there was a food cupboard there and**
5 **there would have been a fridge there with eggs, meat,**
6 **bread. You would have made something else for the young**
7 **person.**

8 Q. So there wasn't a requirement that whatever was made had
9 to be eaten and there was --

10 **A. No, definitely not.**

11 Q. -- no alternative?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Obviously you are there to care for the children. A
14 child not eating is a potentially serious issue if it
15 goes on. How did you manage? Can you remember, for
16 instance, are there examples of children who were
17 struggling to eat? What practical steps did you take to
18 try and help them eat?

19 **A. The only one I do have memory of, a young child who had**
20 **medical conditions, and she had**
21 **had an operation for a . So hers would have**
22 **been very small portions, and you would have cut the**
23 **meat and the potatoes and -- whatever the meal was, you**
24 **would have cut it into small pieces and sat beside her**
25 **and encouraged her with hers.**

1 Q. So was that create to the impression of less?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. And then she would get more after the first?

4 **A. Yes. A large plate -- a large plate would put some**
5 **people off. A small plate with some on it and she**
6 **thought she was achieving something by eating her dinner**
7 **and she could have some extra then if she was still**
8 **hungry or wanted more.**

9 Q. What happened with the teenagers --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- who are sitting down to dinner and just they will not
12 eat the food? What do you do or what did you do?

13 **A. Well, you would have offered them alternatives from the**
14 **-- you know, "Would you like some of it?" or, you know,**
15 **"Would you like something from the fridge? Scrambled**
16 **eggs? Toast?", you know. There wasn't any night they**
17 **wouldn't have ate something. There was a choice,**
18 **a different menu every night. So within that they were**
19 **bound to have got something they liked.**

20 Q. So there's nothing -- there is no occasion sticks in
21 your mind of someone on a regular basis not eating --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- any food?

24 **A. Definitely not.**

25 Q. And if someone's got their plate of fish and chips and

1 didn't want to eat it, or chicken curry or whatever it
2 is, was that simply binned?

3 **A. Yes, it would have been, yes.**

4 Q. So -- now the allegation that's set out from HIA233 is
5 very stark. It is you forcing food into her mouth and
6 doing that on more than one occasion. What do you want
7 to say about that?

8 **A. It clearly didn't happen, and it disgust -- it just
9 would disgust me, the thought of it.**

10 Q. Disgust you at the thought of?

11 **A. Someone doing it to a child and it clearly did not
12 happen. I didn't do it.**

13 Q. Do you remember anyone who worked with you trying more
14 forcefully to have someone eat, have a child eat their
15 food?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. So it's just not -- it's not something that could have
18 been miscon... -- someone's efforts to have a child eat,
19 which is in their best interests obviously, it is not
20 a case of someone now misconstruing those efforts?

21 **A. No, clearly not.**

22 Q. You -- it just did not happen?

23 **A. It didn't, no.**

24 Q. Now the same lady has also indicated witnessing you and
25 others force she gives the example of her brother and

1 another individual to have showers, to wash. Like the
2 eating, it is obviously important that a child does
3 wash. Presumably there were occasions whenever some
4 children were more reluctant than others to wash. How
5 did you manage the -- I see you smiling. How did you
6 manage the children who didn't want to wash?

7 **A. We would have went to the swimming pool, believe it or**
8 **not. You know, if they weren't going to have a shower**
9 **or a bath, the thought of going swimming, they clearly**
10 **would have gone straight into the swimming pool --**
11 **shower before the pool, after the pool and straight in,**
12 **an hour's fun and entertainment. They didn't realise**
13 **they had showered and done their hair when they came out**
14 **there.**

15 Q. So Derry City Council provided greater facilities than
16 they perhaps appreciated --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- in the swimming pool provision?

19 **A. The youngsters loved the activity. They loved swimming**
20 **and they loved getting out.**

21 Q. So this was a workaround for -- in addition to the
22 pleasure of going swimming for its sake --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- it was a workaround for those who had an issue about
25 staying clean --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- in that they were getting washed without them
3 necessarily knowing it?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And do you recall occasions whenever someone was
6 assisted physically to get washed in the home?

7 **A. No. You would have helped fill a bath for the wee
8 younger ones, put the bubbles, whatever in, their toys
9 in, and SND 331, the wee young one I mentioned with you
10 earlier, was the only one you would have helped.**

11 Q. Now the -- HIA233's brother, HIA127 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Perhaps before I deal with that point do you remember
14 HIA233 in the children's home?

15 **A. Yes, I do, yes. I remember.**

16 Q. And you looked after -- in fact, you were the
17 of her sister HIA126?

18 **A. I was, yes.**

19 Q. And the Inquiry has heard from HIA126 already. Can you
20 remember -- HIA233 was a little younger than HIA126 was.
21 What was she like in the children's home to your
22 recollection?

23 **A. A wee bit challenging more than other youngsters and
24 demanding of her brothers and sisters.**

25 Q. And how was that dynamic managed? What steps did you

1 take to deal with that different approach from her than
2 perhaps others?

3 **A. Well, there wouldn't have been a different approach.**
4 **She would have just been managed the same as the others.**
5 **HIA126 would have mothered her a wee bit and tried to**
6 **settle her down when she wasn't getting her own way with**
7 **her brothers.**

8 Q. Now her brother then, who was also there, HIA127, has
9 described a particular issue involving your husband or
10 then husband.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And what I want to ask you first, he indicated --
13 I'll just bring up a copy of his transcript. SND-16822.
14 Your then husband -- we can see it in the middle section
15 -- and he was called " " by HIA127
16 and others. Can I just ask you first: did he have
17 ?

18 **A. He did have, yes.**

19 Q. And would he have been in the children's home from time
20 to time?

21 **A. He would have been, yes.**

22 Q. Can you explain to the Panel when he might have been
23 there, what type of occasion and why?

24 **A. He would have been there when my children would have**
25 **been invited in to Christmas parties or birthday parties**

1 **by the home. He would have brought them, because I was**
2 **working.**

3 Q. So there are occasions when he would have been --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in the home, and the suggestion that HIA127 makes is
6 that -- SND-5055, please, paragraph 6. He says, and he
7 repeated this in his evidence, if you just look at the
8 bottom of the page, if we magnify that, please, and
9 scroll down, that -- scroll down, please -- his
10 recollection is that he had hit you. Do you recall
11 being hit by him?

12 **A. No, I don't.**

13 Q. Can I ask you do you have any memory -- you worked in
14 Nazareth for about years.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Do you recall ever being hit by a child?

17 **A. No, not in Nazareth actually.**

18 Q. Have you been hit elsewhere?

19 **A. Yes. Since then in the latter years, yes, assaults are**
20 **more common.**

21 Q. That's -- you are describing a more difficult
22 environment now looking after children?

23 **A. Yes, indeed.**

24 Q. You don't have a recollection of being hit in Nazareth
25 by any child?

1 **A. No, I don't.**

2 Q. And his recollection is that was the catalyst for this
3 one-off occasion that he describes where you threatened
4 him then with your husband, "If you hit me again, I will
5 bring my husband" and he said, "Well, go on ahead and
6 bring him", and apparently SND 44 then came to the house,
7 the home the next day and did hit him. Can you remember
8 anything like that occurring in Nazareth House?

9 **A. No. SND 44 never would have hit him. He wasn't known**
10 **as "SND 44". His name was SND 44 and he never got**
11 **"SND 44", but he certainly wouldn't have been in. Any**
12 **time he had have been in he had toddlers on his arms**
13 **or legs.**

14 Q. Do you recall him ever having for whatever reason
15 an altercation with HIA127?

16 **A. No, I don't.**

17 Q. HIA127 says of him, if we just look at SND-16822, that
18 all the time when you were working, he could just waltz
19 into the place like he owned the place. Does that
20 accord with your recollection of what was occurring?

21 **A. No, he definitely couldn't have.**

22 Q. As far as you are concerned this incident just didn't
23 happen?

24 **A. No, it didn't.**

25 Q. Can I ask you about another aspect of your work there?

1 Would you have taken children out of the home?

2 **A. Yes, I would have.**

3 Q. Where would you have taken them when you took them out
4 of the home?

5 **A. Different activities, town, shopping, on occasions to my
6 house at birthday parties for my children. Some of the
7 children would have been invited down.**

8 Q. How regularly -- how regularly would you have had
9 children in your home?

10 **A. They only had a birthday once a year, but not every
11 birthday.**

12 Q. But what I'm trying get at without putting words in your
13 mouth is the only time you ever had them there was
14 a birthday?

15 **A. Oh, definitely, yes, if it was a party, yes.**

16 Q. And there would have been lots of other people around.

17 **A. Aunts, uncles, everybody, yes. An hour, an hour and
18 a half at the most.**

19 Q. Would you ever have had one of your children at home on
20 your own? I don't mean your children as in your own
21 children, but one of the children you were responsible
22 for in Bishop Street. Would you ever have done --

23 **A. In my house alone?**

24 Q. Yes.

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. You have set out in your statement, SND43, the hurt that
2 you describe at paragraph 20 at SND-15878. You say you
3 regard what you do more than just a job but as
4 a vocation.

5 **A. I did, yes.**

6 Q. And you deny that you have ever failed any child. What
7 do you mean by that? You say:

8 "I believe that I have to the best of my ability
9 acted at all times professionally and properly towards
10 the children with whom I have worked."

11 **A. Well, I believe I would have given them respect and
12 treated them with kindness.**

13 Q. So what you're talking about there is you've done -- as
14 far as you can recall you've done your very best?

15 **A. Yes. Well, you know, the role that I went into would
16 have been as would have been you tried to
17 treat the children like you would expect to treat your
18 own or would like anyone else to treat them.**

19 Q. And can you remember in your time in Nazareth, for
20 instance, positive achievement? By that mean seeing
21 a child improve, settle and --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- come on --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- if I can use those terms.

1 **A. Definitely.**

2 Q. Was that a rewarding --

3 **A. It is very rewarding, yes.**

4 Q. Now this -- obviously you have come to deal with the
5 allegations that have been made against you, but it is
6 your opportunity -- if there's anything else that you
7 can say that you consider would assist the work of the
8 Inquiry, now's the time to do it. Is there anything
9 else that you'd like to add that you think I haven't
10 covered or maybe some issue that I haven't touched on at
11 all that you feel the Inquiry should know about? Now's
12 the time to say if you can.

13 **A. I can't think. I really can't think right now.**

14 Q. SND43, I don't intend to ask you any further questions,
15 but if you just remain where you are --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- the Panel Members may want to ask you one or two
18 more.

19 Questions from THE PANEL

20 MS DOHERTY: SND43, thanks very much for coming today and
21 for giving your evidence.

22 Can I just ask -- we were told earlier in the week
23 that a TL 4 and then HH 5 might have
24 done visits from the Board -- from the Trust, the Board
25 to Nazareth House. Do you remember them?

1 A. I do, yes.

2 Q. Can you remember what their visits were like?

3 A. TL 4 started out as a social worker when I worked there
4 and he would have brought young siblings in, young
5 toddlers maybe, young infants in to visit their siblings
6 that lived with us. So I would have known him through
7 that. He then went on to work on a -- within social
8 work to run a scheme , taking children to
9 . So he would have been in a lot then as well.

10 Q. And did he then start coming in to do more monitoring
11 visits? Do you remember that?

12 A. Well, he would have become a and he
13 would have been in -- he would have been in a lot. He
14 was very friendly with some of the nuns as well. So he
15 would have popped in, you know.

16 Q. But it wasn't a formal thing where he'd come in and --
17 you know the way you were discussing the bit about --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- looking at the books and doing -- there was --

20 A. Well, no, not to my knowledge that it would have been --
21 he may well have done while he was there with the
22 sisters in their office. He may well have looked at ...

23 Q. But he wouldn't have come out and talked to you, the
24 staff, or talked to the children?

25 A. Oh, yes, he would have chatted to all the staff when he

1 **came into the building and somebody would have made him**
2 **a cup of tea in the kitchen.**

3 Q. Passing the time of day --

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. -- as opposed to saying --

6 **A. Definitely, yes.**

7 Q. -- "How is it and how are you finding things?" Any
8 involvement with your training, talking to you about
9 training needs or ...?

10 **A. TL 4 -- TL 4 was on the training team for a while,**
11 **yes, and then SND 514 took over that.**

12 Q. And did either TL 4 or ^{SND 514} talk to the staff as
13 a group about training or talk to you individually about
14 training?

15 **A. I have no memory of it.**

16 Q. No memory at all. Thank you.

17 The other thing, if we go back to the issue about
18 the food, in the evenings would the sisters be up and
19 around the units in the evening around meal time?

20 **A. Some sisters, but not every evening.**

21 Q. Not every evening, and how would they respond about food
22 being thrown out? You know, if the food was thrown out
23 if children didn't take it, what would their ...?

24 **A. Well, that was taken down -- it was -- there was --**
25 **pardon the expression -- what the children called the**

1 pigs' pail. It would have been all thrown into the --
2 this pail and taken down to the back kitchen and thrown
3 into a big bucket. Then there was a local man used to
4 come and lift it.

5 Q. ?

6 A. **Yes, and it went to his farm for the pigs.**

7 Q. For the pigs. They would have been okay -- I mean,
8 because obviously all scraps would go into the bin --

9 A. **Everything went in, yes.**

10 Q. -- but they would be okay with a full meal going into
11 the bin?

12 A. **Yes.**

13 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

14 A. **Thank you.**

15 MR LANE: You mentioned that you had a friend,

16 --

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. -- who was at the home. Did you go for tea with her at
19 the home at that time?

20 A. **Yes, I did, yes.**

21 Q. And did she come to your house as well --

22 A. **Yes.**

23 Q. -- in return? Was that a common pattern or was that
24 unusual?

25 A. **It was very common, yes.**

1 Q. So a lot of the children there would have had friends
2 calling in from school and so on?

3 **A. Yes, they would have done, yes, and quite a few of them**
4 **envious and saying they wanted to move in.**

5 Q. Just one other thing which I'd like to clarify and that
6 is talking about the reviews.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. If I heard you correctly, you said that the children
9 were involved in the reviews. Is that --

10 **A. They would have been, yes.**

11 Q. They would have been. They would have sat in on the
12 review meetings?

13 **A. There would have been a form for the children to fill**
14 **in, very child -- over the years it became more child**
15 **friendly -- for anybody that didn't want to go to their**
16 **review.**

17 Q. Okay. Thank you.

18 **A. Thank you.**

19 CHAIRMAN: Just to follow up on the question about children
20 and yourself going in and out, was that when you were at
21 primary school?

22 **A. No, secondary school.**

23 Q. Secondary school?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Well, SND43, thank you very much for coming to speak to

1 us. That's all that we want to ask you about today.

2 Thank you for coming.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 (Witness withdrew)

5 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Ms Smith is taking the next witness.

6 It may be appropriate for a short break to allow that to

7 ...

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will sit again at 11.50.

9 (11.43 am)

10 (Short break)

11 (11.50 am)

12 WITNESS HIA144 (called)

13 MS SMITH: Morning, Chairman, Panel Members. The next

14 witness today is HIA144, who is "HIA144". I have

15 checked with him and he wishes to maintain his anonymity

16 as far as the Inquiry is prepared to afford it to him.

17 He does have some mobility issues, Chairman, so it

18 may be preferable for him to sit while taking the oath

19 or affirmation.

20 I should also point out that he has forgotten to

21 bring his glasses with him today, but's he's aware that

22 I will do most of the reading.

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

24 HIA144, just stay where you are. There is no need

25 for you to stand up. Do you wish to take a religious

1 oath or to make an affirmation, which is a solemn
2 promise with the same effect? It's entirely a matter
3 for you to choose.

4 **A. I'd like to take the oath, the religious oath.**

5 Q. Very well.

6 WITNESS HIA144 (sworn)

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

8 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

9 MS SMITH: HIA144 -- HIA144, I am the one who is going to be
10 asking you the questions.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. We spoke earlier this morning.

13 **A. That's right, yes.**

14 Q. And you -- can I just confirm, HIA144, you are almost
15 . Isn't that correct?

16 **A. Yes, that's right, yes.**

17 Q. And your birthday ?

18 **A. Yes, .**

19 Q. You spent your entire childhood

20 living in Termonbacca,

21

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q.

Yes.

1 Q. --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. --

4 A. That's right, yes.

5 Q.

7 A. Yes, that's right.

8 Q.

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q.

12 A. I did, yes.

13 Q.

16 Q.

Oh, no. The nuns -- oh, that's right, yes. I am
19 getting a bit confused here.

20 Q. We will take our time, and if I get anything wrong, you
21 please correct me, HIA144.

22 A. Yes. That's it.

23 Q.

, yes.

25 Q. And Termonbacca as a children's home closed in about

1 1982. Isn't that right?

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

3 Q. --

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. --

7 Q. HIA144, what I am -- you have spoken to the Inquiry and
8 you have given us some details about your time there.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. And you have also given a statement to the Inquiry,
11 which can be found at SND-16395, but I am aware you
12 don't have your glasses and you don't have to worry
13 about any of the documents --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that I am going to be pulling up on the screen.

16 Okay?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. But can I just ask you a bit about your own memories of
19 your childhood in Termonbacca? We talked about these
20 this morning.

21 **A. My childhood was -- it was grand.**

22 Q. I'm going to ask you about certain aspects of your time
23 as a child there.

24 **A. Oh, I have bad memories and I have good memories.**

25 Q. Well, let's just take them one by one.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. One of the things that you told the Inquiry was that one
3 of your earliest memories of being in the home --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- was when you were in the nursery, and you actually
6 remembered someone running around with a white sheet and
7 something --

8 **A. Yes. It was in , was it, or ' ?**

9 Q. But certainly you were very young.

10 **A. I was very young.**

11 Q. You were maybe 3 or 4 at that time.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You remember somebody and you remember there was some
14 talk about a ghost.

15 **A. Yes, there was some talk about a ghost and -- like
16 I didn't know the place very well, you know, but I heard
17 people talking about it.**

18 Q. And that was when you were very, very young.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And then your -- just talking about your own family
21 background --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- your mother was very young when she had you. She was
24 only . Isn't that right?

25 **A. My mother was only . She was , you know.**

1 Q. And she -- you were -- she told you -- you met her later
2 in your life. Isn't that right?

3 **A. I can't understand you.**

4 Q. Sorry. Can you hear me okay?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You met your mother late... -- many years later. Isn't
7 that right?

8 **A. Yes, I did, yes.**

9 Q. And she told you that she had, in fact, telephoned the
10 nuns when she was about --

11 **A. That's right.**

12 Q. -- wanting to take you out of the home --

13 **A. That's right.**

14 Q. -- but that she had been told by the nuns that you had
15 been adopted.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And it was only many years later that you found her and
18 made contact with her and found out that you had got
19 half --

20 **A. I think I was about . I was about or something,
21 yes.**

22 Q. So it was quite -- quite a while later?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. And you discovered at that stage that you had
25 sister.

1 **A. Yes, I do, yes.**

2 Q. And brothers?

3 **A. Yes. They live in .**

4 Q. And your mother, sadly she died young as well. Isn't
5 that correct?

6 **A. Yes. She died with the drink.**

7 Q. And she was -- she was young. You also found out from
8 her about an aunt that you had in .

9 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

10 Q. Are you okay, HIA144? I mean, at any stage if you feel
11 you need a break, just please tell us.

12 **A. It's okay. It's all right.**

13 Q. It's okay. I appreciate these are difficult memories
14 to -- for you to deal with.

15 But one of the things that you said was when you
16 went looking for your family -- can I ask you -- you had
17 said that you found out some things through Social
18 Services. Is that right?

19 **A. Yes. There was this girl called , ,**
20 **, and she --**

21 Q. And where was she based?

22 **A. She was based in -- in -- what do you call it down**
23 **there? What do you call it? It's just down there by**
24 **the Foyle Road. What do you call it?**

25 Q. In Derry?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. In Derry. Coming back to your childhood in Termonbacca,
3 did you form any friendships while you were there with
4 some of the other boys?

5 **A. Actually I knew a fella -- fella that was from the --
6 from the same county I was. You call him**

7 **. He was -- I was a good friend of his. Aye,
8 well, I had friends, you know.**

9 Q. You would have played together with those boys in your
10 age group?

11 **A. Aye, yes, I would, yes, normally as a child would, you
12 know.**

13 Q. One of the things you told us a bit about also, HIA144,
14 was your education. You went, first of all, to Nazareth
15 House in Bishop Street --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and from there you went to School and
18 then you spent a year in Secondary School.

19 **A. Yes, that's right.**

20 Q. But after a year there you left

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. --

24 **A. Yes. That's right.**

25 Q. Now you said you didn't like Bishop Street.

1 **A.** Bishop Street, I always thought there was something
2 about the teachers there. There was teachers, you know
3 -- they were very cruel to the kids then, you know.

4 **Q.** You then moved into Street and you said that the
5 headmaster there was very good to you and you liked him.

6 **A.** SND 5 was a very nice man, yes.

7 **Q.**

11 **A.** **Yes.**

12 **Q.**

15 **A.** Well, I will explain. I will explain as much as I can.

16 Now I don't know what it was for.

?

20 **A.**

23 **Q.**

24 **A.** **Yes.**

25 **Q.** --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Can I just ask then about some of the general things
3 that we have heard from other people about life in
4 Termonbacca as well?

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. And one of the things -- I mean, clothing, you thought
7 the clothing was all right?

8 **A. Och, the clothing was okay.**

9 Q. And you say that the food was good.

10 **A. Aye, the food was good. See, them days, and I am**
11 **talking my time, I've -- the only thing I will tell you**
12 **I never drunk a tea -- drunk a cup of tea till I was 14.**

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 **A. That's all. That's all I can say, but as for -- they**
15 **used to give them fried bread, porridge, things like**
16 **that, and the ones that was growing up in the '70s, they**
17 **got bacon and they got sausages, you know, and they were**
18 **well looked after and they would have got a cereal. You**
19 **know what I mean?**

20 Q.

22 **A. Well, this -- this -- wait a minute. Aye, late '70s,**
23 **yes.**

24 Q. And you did tell the Inquiry that all the vegetables for
25 the home came from the farm.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And there were potatoes which you say --

3 **A. They were self-sufficient, you know.**

4 Q. Sufficient. You say the only thing that they had to pay
5 for was the meat that they brought in.

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. Okay. Can I ask you just what you remember about bath
8 time and bathing in the home?

9 **A. Well, we used to have bad feelings about that too.**

10 Q. Some of the boys have talked about Jeyes fluid being
11 used.

12 **A. I have had Jeyes fluid myself --**

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 **A. -- and we were put into these baths. There was only two
15 allowed in a bath, and they filled it up with water and
16 they had Jeyes Fluid, you know.**

17 Q. And you said that --

18 **A. And they got bathed in it, yes.**

19 Q. You said that -- when you were talking to me earlier,
20 you said that it made you "wild itchy all over".

21 **A. Yes, it did, yes, very, very itchy.**

22 Q. Can I ask -- you yourself weren't a bed wetter -- isn't
23 that right -- but you do remember what happened to the
24 boys who did wet the bed.

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. Can you tell us a little about that?

2 **A. These people wet the bed, they used to be put into**
3 **a bath of cold water, you know. They used to bath them**
4 **in cold water I remember.**

5 Q. Some of the boys have said they were made to put their
6 sheets on their head and walk to the bathroom. Do you
7 remember that?

8 **A. No, I don't remember that. They could have. Now don't**
9 **get me wrong. They could have, but I didn't -- I didn't**
10 **catch on that.**

11 Q. One of the things you also told us about was the fact
12 that you were all made to do jobs in the home and you
13 had chores to do.

14 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

15 Q. You talked about polishing the floor --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- was one of the things you had to do.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. We talked also about numbering. You remember your
20 number. Isn't that correct?

21 **A. .**

22 Q. And -- but you do accept that the nuns probably -- there
23 were so many boys that that number was really mostly --

24 **A. Well, I accept that, because it's -- it's to keep an eye**
25 **on your clothes sort of thing, you know, to try and, you**

1 **know ...**

2 Q. You weren't -- you yourself weren't called by your
3 number; you were called by your name?

4 **A. We were all called by our name.**

5 Q. And can you remember special occasions in the home? Can
6 you remember Christmas, for example?

7 **A. I do, yes.**

8 Q. What can you tell the Inquiry about how Christmas was
9 celebrated?

10 **A. Christmas -- och, aye. You had your Christmas. You got
11 presents too. You would have got presents. There used
12 to be a concert for the bishop, you know, and we'd have
13 presents then there. Like myself I got a bloody jigsaw,
14 you know, but the rest -- the rest of the fellas -- it
15 was just a -- it's only for show sort of thing, you
16 know.**

17 Q. What do you mean it was only for show, HIA144?

18 **A. You know, let them look good, you know. "It was me gave
19 you this" sort of thing, you know.**

20 Q. You think it was to make the nuns look good in front of
21 the bishop. Is that what you mean?

22 **A. No, it was to make the bishop look good, because they
23 were called the bishop's presents.**

24 Q. Oh, I see. Right. So the nuns got the presents for the
25 bishop to give to you?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. What about music in the home? Were you part of a band
3 or a choir?

4 **A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes, yes. I used to play instruments**
5 **myself. There was a band in Derry called**
6 **I was in that.**

7 Q. And this was after, later on, was it?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. But when you were a child, were you in a band in
10 Termonbacca?

11 **A. I was, yes.**

12 Q. And what -- do you remember anything about pocket money?

13 **A. Oh, well, the nuns used to give them pocket money**
14 **every -- every -- every Saturday to go down the town to**
15 **spend it.**

16 Q. Uh-huh. You say "the nuns used to give them". Was that
17 later on or did you get pocket money yourself?

18 **A. I got £8**

19 Q.

20 **A.**

21 Q. But when you were a child, did you get pocket money?

22 **A. I can't remember. I never seen money. I don't know**
23 **what I -- then, you know. I wasn't sure.**

24 Q. You don't remember if you got any yourself?

25 **A. No, no.**

1 Q. But do you remember day trips, going out on day trips as
2 a child?

3 A. I remember a few, but I also -- always stuck in the back
4 of my mind -- I remember boys going in a bus but they
5 never came back. We heard they went to Australia.
6 I don't know.

7 Q. But you don't remember much more about boys going to
8 Australia other than them going off in a bus and not
9 coming back.

10 A. No.

11 Q. And somebody said that that's where they had gone to.

12 A. Now since then there's a fella came back from Australia
13 and he stayed in the house with me. You call him ,
14 and he was telling me that Christian Brothers in
15 Australia was -- was very cruel to them.

16 Q. This was somebody who had lived in Australia and came
17 back to visit Termonbacca?

18 A. He was one of the Termonbacca boys. Then he was sent
19 out to Australia.

20 Q. Do you remember his surname at all, HIA144?

21 A. .

22 Q. ?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What about your birthday? We know your birthday is
25 , but when you were a child, was that ever

1 celebrated?

2 **A. I never even said I had a birthday, you know. Well,**
3 **there was just once I had a fry. I got a fry and ...**

4 Q. Do you remember what age you were?

5 **A. No, I can't.**

6 Q. Okay. One of the things again that you told us was that
7 when you were growing up in Termonbacca in the --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- you remember being visited by a woman from Donegal
10 Social Services.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Can I just ask you what you remember about that? What
13 happened?

14 **A. Well, this -- this oul' doll had grey hair, you see.**

15 Q. And she came to Termonbacca?

16 **A. She came. I had -- I was told that it was -- it was**
17 **my -- my -- what do you call it -- home -- what do you**
18 **call them?**

19 Q. Like a social worker?

20 **A. Social worker. I didn't know her at all.**

21 Q. And did she speak to you when she came to Termonbacca?

22 **A. I think she did. It was that long ago I couldn't tell**
23 **you.**

24 Q. You think -- what you said was that you remember her
25 having a cup of tea and asking you how you were doing.

1 A. Yes, I know, aye, and she asked me how I was doing.

2 I says, "All right".

3 Q. And were there other boys that she spoke to?

4 A. See, this girl was from Donegal but there was more than
5 me from Donegal in -- in Termonbacca.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Maybe she came to see them too. I don't know.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I am only surmising.

10 Q. Well, can you remember seeing senior nuns visiting the
11 home in the time that you were there?

12 A. Yes, I do remember that.

13 Q. What do you remember about that?

14 A. What I remember about that is they were -- obviously
15 they used to head up the Nazareth Order and one of them
16 was a Mother General that was there, you know.

17 Q. And did she ever -- when the Mother General came or
18 these nuns who were high up in the order, did they speak
19 to the children?

20 A. Oh, there -- there is such a thing as a council in a
21 Nazareth Order.

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 A. I don't know if you know anything about it, but there's
24 a council there and they are probably members of the
25 council that came with the Mother General to visit, you

1 **know. That's what -- that's what be's done there.**

2 Q. And do you know how often she would have visited?

3 **A. I'd say about once, once or twice a year. I don't know.**

4 Q. And do you remember did she -- as I said to you, did she
5 speak to the children during this visit or not?

6 **A. Oh, aye, she would say "Hello" and all that. Like they
7 weren't stuck-up people. I don't think they were
8 stuck-up people at all.**

9 Q. Uh-huh, and can you -- you remember you told me a story
10 about one time when one of these nuns came and what
11 happened.

12 **A. I fell on top of her out of a tree. Fell out of a tree.
13 Fell on top of her.**

14 Q. You were -- you say the children would hide when she was
15 coming and you were hiding up the tree.

16 **A. I was hiding up the tree and the tree fell, snapped.**

17 Q. And you fell on top of the nun. Can I -- apart from
18 these nuns and the lady from Donegal Welfare and Bishop
19 -- SND 131 who you said visited, do you remember
20 other people visiting the home?

21 **A. There was social workers and all, you know.**

22 Q. Social workers from where?

23 **A. I don't know. I knew -- they were like social --
24 dressed like social workers and there were ones
25 interested with kids, you know, and all.**

1 Q. This was -- this was later on. It would have been maybe
2 in the late when you were back working

3 .

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. Do you remember earlier when you were a child yourself
6 people from St. Vincent de Paul coming up?

7 **A. Oh, aye, they came up. Well, they were good, so they**
8 **were, you know.**

9 Q. And they -- there were also teachers who came in to help
10 with the band and choir practice and that.

11 **A. Well, one of them -- this man I know very well. He died**
12 **since. You call him . He used to live in**
13 **in Derry.**

14 Q. He was one of the teachers who came to help out?

15 **A. No, he was the .**

16 Q. ?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Okay. Now you did -- as I say, you spoke to the Inquiry
19 and there were a number of things that you wanted the
20 Inquiry to know about what happened to you when you were
21 in Termonbacca.

22 If I can just summarise those for you, one of the
23 complaints that you made was that you were bullied and
24 beaten by older boys when you were a child.

25 **A. Yes. That's right.**

1 Q. And you feel that you were picked on because of your
2 weight.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And, I mean, you are a big man, HIA144. I take it you
5 were a big boy when you were growing up too then?

6 **A. Oh, aye. Well, I had to defend myself.**

7 Q. I am saying about weight wise you were then. You say
8 that one particular nun who you named as SR2 --

9 **A. Aye.**

10 Q. -- you say that you thought she thought badly of you
11 because you were overweight.

12 **A. Aye.**

13 Q. And you say you never liked her and you didn't get on
14 with her.

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. Is there anything else that you can tell the Inquiry
17 about her, because some people have said she was very
18 loving and caring?

19 **A. Well, there is one thing I am going to tell you.**
20 **I should have mentioned to you before. I am very sorry.**
21 **I had a brother. It is just recently I found out. I'll**
22 **be honest with you. It is not a thing you talk about.**
23 **That man -- that brother grew up with me and I didn't**
24 **know.**

25 Q. He was in Termonbacca when you were there?

1 **A. Yes, he was in Termonbacca. You called him** .

2 **The reason why it's , because my da then was**

3 **So -- so -- my mother told me that.**

4 Q. And didn't know that, that you had a brother in the
5 home, the whole time you were there?

6 **A. No, I didn't know anything about it.**

7 Q. One of the things that you also complained about was
8 that you were walked to school -- one person walked you
9 to school, a man called SND15.

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

11 Q. And you say he beat you --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- on the way to school with a Sally rod.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can I just ask what is a Sally rod, HIA144?

16 **A. It is like a big long stick from a tree and you just**
17 **pull it off to hit you round the legs with, you know, if**
18 **you didn't keep up when you went down to...**

19 Q. You describe this man when you were talking about him as
20 the was really bad.

21 **A. Well, I can only speak for myself.**

22 Q. You didn't get on with him or you didn't like him.

23 **A. Och, well, I don't -- I wouldn't say I didn't like him.**
24 **Everybody in my eyes was okay by me, you know.**

25 Q. ,

1

2 **A.**

3 Q. So -- one of the other things that you did tell us about
4 was that you saw nuns beating children.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And you talked about one boy who -- you gave me his name
7 this morning, a boy called .

8 **A. That's right.**

9 Q. You said that he was beaten by a SR 63 .

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And that was not long after she arrived in the home.

12 **A. That's right.**

13 Q. She had just arrived.

14 **A. That's right.**

15 Q. Was she the Reverend Mother at the time?

16 **A. Oh, not at all. She was -- she was to look after the**
17 **kids. She was sent -- she was sent there to look after**
18 **kids.**

19 Q. What do you remember about the incident involving
20 ? Do you remember how that came about or
21 anything about it?

22 **A. Yes. Well, I can't understand it right enough. She was**
23 **just there. Right? But -- you know the way --**
24 **would be messing, you know, and carrying on and this and**
25 **that. Well, she went out and she got -- what do you**

1 call it -- a strap and she beat him with the strap and
2 she had no mercy. I says "Mother of God!" I says, "You
3 wouldn't do that to a dog", you know.

4 Q. So he says ...

5 A. What?

6 Q. You say it was a strap that she beat him with?

7 A. Aye, aye. You wouldn't do it to a dog.

8 Q. You yourself say that you were beaten by an older boy
9 with the shaft of a brush for not polishing the floor
10 properly.

11 A. Yes. It was-- it was the oul' -- it was the oul'
12 building I was in. We used to polish the floor. It was
13 a big, big passage, it was. We had to polish it, you
14 know, this and that, but I got -- one day I just got hit
15 with the shaft of a brush on my back, you know.

16 Q. Another thing that you told us was that the nuns checked
17 your underwear.

18 A. Yes, that's right.

19 Q. Do you remember -- do you remember how that was done?

20 A. Well, I think it was with -- with -- SR2 was involved in
21 that, and all -- I remember all the fellas coming up
22 with their, you know, underwear. That's all I know.

23 Q. One of the things you also said to me was that you felt
24 that the nuns or you believed that the nuns ordered the
25 older boys to thump you, as you put it.

1 **A. I think so. I got that feeling, but I can't prove that.**

2 Q. No. You remember one occasion where you called them old
3 spinsters --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and you got a beating for that from an older boy.

6 **A. Aye.**

7 Q. And you thought the nuns had put him up to that. Is
8 that right?

9 **A. Aye.**

10 Q. You said also you were afraid to tell the nuns that the
11 older boys were beating you.

12 **A. Aye.**

13 Q. Why was that? Why were you afraid to tell them?

14 **A. Because I would have got more.**

15 Q. You also said that when you were at Nazareth House
16 School, there was a nun called SR 24 .

17 **A. Aye.**

18 Q. You think she picked on the home boys --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- because they had no parents. You say that she broke
21 a stick over you.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And you were also beaten in school by a SND 321 .

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. One of the other things that you said was that you --

1

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. -- that you didn't feel that the boys were prepared for
4 leaving Termonbacca.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Why do you say that, HIA144?

7 **A. Because I thought -- I thought -- I thought they**
8 **should -- these people should have been aware what they**
9 **were facing in the world. As far as I can make out they**
10 **knew nothing about the world. They need somebody like**
11 **a father figure to try and help them to see, you know,**
12 **and like the problem is those people don't know nothing**
13 **about the world. Right? They will be out doing**
14 **mischief and this and that. They need someone to guide**
15 **them, in other words.**

16 Q. You said that you also thought that the nuns spent too
17 much time praying and that they were relying on the
18 older boys then to look after you all.

19 **A. Look, wait till I tell you. I pray myself, but I don't**
20 **spend all that time praying. God doesn't expect that**
21 **from anyone, but God expects them to look after them**
22 **wains or anybody. That's all.**

23 Q. Well, some of the boys have said that they went out to
24 families during summer and Christmas and things. Did
25 you ever leave Termonbacca to go and spend time with

1 a family outside?

2 **A. Nobody would take me.**

3 Q. But you do remember one nun with fondness. Isn't that
4 right?

5 **A. Aye, . Ah, she was a good friend. She**
6 **was very good to me.**

7 Q. Can I just -- I am going to pull up a couple of
8 documents here. The first time you remember seeing
9 these was this morning. Remember you didn't know what
10 I was showing you or what they were. If I could just
11 put up two documents side by side, please, SND-1400 and
12 SND-1401. I told you these -- these seem to be
13 discharge slips, HIA144, that the nuns would have
14 prepared when a child was leaving their care.

15 **A. I haven't a clue about -- I don't know anything about**
16 **that. They could be anything.**

17 Q. I will come to them in a wee minute just if we can get
18 them up on the screen. It is SND-1400 and SND-1401.

19 **A. Aye.**

20 Q. Just you can see -- they are just here you see in front
21 of you. If we can just enlarge both documents, if
22 that's possible.

23 **A. I can't see it. What's that? I can't see it.**

24 Q. I know -- I appreciate this is very difficult for you to
25 see. I am going to read out what they say, HIA144.

1 **A. Right.**

2 Q. So don't worry about peering too closely at it. The
3 first one says:

4 "I hereby certify that" -- and if I can just get the
5 actual -- I think there is a name under there -- "left
6 today to go to , from under
7 the care of the Sisters of Nazareth, St. Joseph's Home,
8 Derry, in a perfect state of health and cleanliness."

9 It is signed by SR1 and then it's witnessed by you.
10 Your signature is under that big black box that we see
11 there, "HIA144". Remember I showed you your signature
12 on it earlier.

13 **A. Yes, you did.**

14 Q. It is dated 8th January .

15 **A. Jesus! (Inaudible).**

16 Q. You don't remember that? You don't remember signing
17 that?

18 **A. No, I don't remember signing that there.**

19 Q. But you accept that the nuns might have said, "HIA144,
20 come here. Would you sign that for me?"

21 **A. I accept that, yes.**

22 Q. Just for completeness the next one is:

23 "I hereby certify that I received my daughter", and
24 the child's name's there, "(itinerant) from under the
25 care of the Sisters of Nazareth, St. Joseph's Home,

1 Derry in a perfect state of health and cleanliness."

2 It is signed by the father of that child and it is
3 also witnessed by you and you will see it says
4 2/10/ . That's a much later document.

5 **A. . Oh, the nuns wasn't there.**

6 Q. The nuns weren't in Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Aye.**

8 Q. So this document that has been dated , Termonbacca
9 had closed at that time. So it's possible that it may
10 have been used for a child leaving Nazareth House. What
11 I wanted to ask you about that, HIA144, was after
12 Termonbacca shut a lot of the nuns who were there moved
13 down to Nazareth House -- isn't that right -- or some of
14 them did?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. No? You don't think so?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. But you --

19 **A. Ah!**

20 Q. Sorry.

21 **A. Wait a minute now. I'm trying to think, you know. SR14
22 was away.**

23 Q. HIA144, you don't have to worry about who might have
24 moved down, but what I'm ask... --

25 **A. I don't think any of them moved down.**

1 Q. Okay. Can I ask you after they had moved to Nazareth
2 House did you yourself go and visit them in Nazareth
3 House at all?

4 **A. To see if they were all right, you know.**

5 Q. So you would have called in to Bishop Street?

6 **A. I would have called in to say "Hello".**

7 Q. So it is possible on one of your visits you might have
8 been asked to sign one of those documents.

9 **A. Oh, my God!**

10 Q. Is that -- is it possible, HIA144?

11 **A. Oh, aye, it's possible, yes.**

12 Q. Okay, but you don't remember doing it?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. If the nuns asked to you do something like that, you
15 would have said, "Certainly, sister", and just --

16 **A. I would have said I'd do anything for anybody.**

17 Q. Okay.

18 **A. Oh, dear Lord!**

19 Q. Can I just -- you were there --

20 **A. I don't even know who that girl is either.**

21 Q. No, I am not suggesting you ought to know who she is,
22 HIA144. I am just saying if the nuns asked you to sign
23 a document, you would have done it. Isn't that right?

24 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

25 Q. Well, can I just also check with you -- you were there

1 for quite a while, as I say, as a child

2

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And you must have witnessed a great deal of changes over
5 your time there.

6 **A. I did, yes.**

7 Q. And can you -- I mean, do you think things improved over
8 the years?

9 **A. Well, with the -- with the situation with -- especially**
10 **the meals have improved a lot there. Like (inaudible).**
11 **They have bacon. They have, you know -- what do you**
12 **call it? They used to get bacon, sausages. They would**
13 **have got, you know, cereal, things like that.**

14 Q. Uh-huh.

15 **A. That's how I know.**

16 Q. Yes. So you noticed -- you certainly witnessed the
17 changes --

18 **A. I witnessed that. I witnessed that, yes.**

19 Q. -- through the food,

20 **A. There was another change I would like to -- I would like**
21 **to tell you. It would have been the building. They had**
22 **a lovely new building more than I had when I was young.**

23 Q. Certainly we have heard that there was an old building
24 that you actually would have been in, which was then
25 knocked down and you moved into temporary accommodation.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. And did you live in the temporary accommodation as
3 a child

4 **A. What?**

5 Q. Sorry. You lived in the old building, HIA144 -- isn't
6 that right -- as a child?

7 **A. I am talking about the -- what do you call it -- where
8 the nuns was in the ...**

9 Q. The nuns got a new building as well?

10 **A. No, no, no.**

11 Q. The children?

12 **A. The children. They pulled that -- they pulled that
13 whole place down.**

14 Q. They pulled that down.

15 **A. But ...**

16 Q. Well, can I just ask you when they pulled that down,
17 were you a child at that stage or had you moved on to
18 working?

19 **A. I was working.**

20 Q. Okay. So at that -- when the building was pulled down,
21 you were living in the cottage?

22 **A. I was living in the old cottage, yes.**

23 Q. Okay. That's the sort of general background to your
24 time in Termonbacca.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. HIA144, you are aware there are a number of people who
2 have made allegations about you.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. What I am going to do now is I am just going to go
5 through those. There is a total of four and I am just
6 going to deal with each one separately.

7 **A. Right.**

8 Q. I am just going to summarise what each has said about
9 you and give you the opportunity to respond.

10 **A. Right.**

11 Q. Okay? Now the first person -- and I am going to use the
12 names, but these names will not be used outside this
13 room --

14 **A. Right.**

15 Q. -- but I am going to use the names just to make it
16 easier for you to know who we are talking about.

17 So the first is HIA67. You remember him?

18 **A. I do.**

19 Q. Okay. What he has told the Inquiry was -- and this can
20 be found -- I am not going to call it up, but it can be
21 found at SND-1420 at paragraph 18 of his statement --

He said
24 that you hit him with your fist and you kicked him and
25 that he also saw you hit old... -- other boys.

1 Now he gave a statement to the police and in that
2 statement he described you as a big man and a bully and
3 said that you would give a terrible beating if he
 didn't do something right.

5 He has spoken -- he sat where you are sitting and
6 spoke to the Inquiry and at that stage we didn't have
7 your statement that you have given to the Inquiry, but
8 I put it to him that SR2, who also gave a statement,
9 that she said she had never seen you hit anyone during
10 her time.

11 **A. No, I wouldn't hit anybody.**

12 Q. He said -- in response to that what he said was the nuns
13 wouldn't have seen, because where this happened was like
14 a wee stack off the kitchen.

18 **A. Yes, they were.**

19 Q. They were, and, in fact, when you were interviewed about
20 a different matter by the police --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- do you remember that --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- you actually told them --

25 **A. I told the police.**

1 Q. -- that there was a shed close to the kitchen --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Now you -- in your statement -- and I will just pull

9 this up now, please, at SND-1390, and if we look at

10 paragraph 6 -- sorry. Sorry. Okay. SND-16395.

11 I don't know how I got that numbering wrong. Yes. If

12 we can scroll down to paragraph 6, and you say there

13 that you never hit HIA67.

and he is right about what your nickname was
16 in the home --

17 **A. .**

18 Q. -- , but is there anything else that you want to tell

19 the Inquiry just, first of all, about what HIA67 said

20 that you did?

21 **A. That Inquiry -- HIA67 was in the --**

1

Uh-huh.

4 **A. The abuse -- I never seen no abuse in there whatsoever**
5 **and I had nothing to do with his fantasies at all.**

6 Q. Okay. Can I move on then to another boy --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- that has complained about you? This is HIA151, and
9 again, although I am using the names, they shouldn't be
10 used outside this room.

11 **A. Right.**

12 Q. He talks at paragraph 29 of his statement, which can be
13 found at SND-1487 -- and again I am not going to call it
14 up -- but he alleges that he was about 10 or 11. He was
15 in the senior dorm, and that he was taken from his bed
16 and made to masturbate you in the toilet. He also
17 alleges that on another occasion he was dragged from
18 where he was hiding under the bed and he was made to
19 perform oral sex on you, and on a further occasion you
20 attempted to penetrate him.

21 He stated that much later on he came back to
22 Termonbacca one day and his intention was to kill you,
23 but that SND15 stopped him and, as he told the Inquiry,
24 talked some sense into him.

25 Now you talk about this boy or this person in your

1 statement at paragraph 7 and 8, and you point out in
2 that paragraph there -- those paragraphs that there was
3 a -year age difference between the two of you, and
4 you deny the allegations and you say that his
5 accusations are rubbish and trash.

6 Is there anything more that you want to say to the
7 Inquiry today about that?

8 **A. That would be very impossible for me to do a thing like**
9 **that**

13 Q. Then if I can move on then, HIA144, to the third set of
14 allegations --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and that's a boy called HIA69 who -- you say you were
17 his .

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. He in his statement, which can be found at SND-2194,
20 paragraph 24, alleged that you tried to touch him all
21 the time, that you came round the dorms at night
and you tried
23 to reach under the blankets but that the bed broke on
24 one occasion. He says he told SR14 about this.

25 He said in evidence to the Inquiry that he got the

1 impression that

2 you kept coming in and trying it
3 on, as he put it, and that he told us, the Inquiry,
4 about it because he thought there should have been some
5 record because of this broken bed.

6 Now can I ask you, first of all, HIA144, did you
7 have -- were you able to walk about Termonbacca as you
8 wanted?

9 **A. Not at all. You wouldn't be.**

10 Q. And --

11 **A. They would fire you -- fire anybody that went into the**
12 **living pool -- living room and everybody was in it, and**
13 **then I would go out -- went out.**

14 Q. Uh-huh.

15 **A. So I brought him a few sweets**
16 **over when I was coming over right enough.**

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 **A. But I didn't do that on anybody.**

19 Q.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q.

Yes, yes.

24 Q. --

25 **A. yes, yes.**

1 Q. And again in your statement, which is at paragraph 9,
2 you deal with his allegations and you say that they are
3 false and that you never touched his privates and you
4 were never in his room and a bed didn't break. You say
5 that the particular nun that he said he told about this
6 never confronted you --

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. -- about the allegations.

9 Now can you think -- is there anything else that you
10 want to say to the Inquiry now about those allegations,
11 HIA144?

12 **A. What allegation?**

13 Q. About what HIA69 said about you. Is there anything more
14 --

15 **A. That was a lot of nonsense, that. Jesus, Mary! It is**
16 **a thing you wouldn't do to anybody, you know. It's**
17 **nonsense.**

18 Q. Okay. Finally, the fourth person who made allegations
19 against you was SND33. He made a statement to the
20 police and that can be found in the bundle at SND --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- 15593. He said you started to abuse him when you
23 were about -- when he was about 9 or 10.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. He talks about you playing with his penis over his

1 clothing, about you removing his trousers and
2 masturbating over him, and then on four or five
3 occasions you abused him when you
4 stripped him and made him give you oral sex.

5 You, in fact, were interviewed about this -- his
6 allegations in 1991 by the police. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. And again these -- your interview can be found at
9 SND-15605, where you denied the allegations and you said
10 you would never have been on your own
11 with him, , and you
12 said that the nuns would not let a thing like that go
13 on. You were never prosecuted as a result --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- of those allegations and the police interview. Isn't
16 that right?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And, in fact, there's been no -- you haven't been
19 interviewed by the police about the other boys either.
20 Isn't that right?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Okay. Well, can I ask you just in respect of SND33, we
23 know that he is now dead, but is there anything you want
24 to say to the Inquiry about what he said you did?

25 **A. See, SND33 spent a lot of time**

1 . You called him SND153, and
2 I think the -- he says that to get at us, you know. We
3 didn't do nothing on him. It was this other boy I know
4 very well. He was -- he was brought in the police
5 station too.

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 A. He cooperated with the police and ...

8 Q. Just to be clear, all of these allegations, HIA144, you
9 completely deny them --

10 A. Oh, I --

11 Q. -- and you say they're not true. Isn't that right?

12 A. Ah, not true, no.

13 Q. That's really all that I want to ask you, HIA144, but is
14 there anything that you want to say to the Inquiry that
15 you feel that we haven't covered today or that you
16 haven't had the opportunity to say at this point?

17 A. Well, I would like -- I would like -- a lot of things
18 happened when I was young. Right? The nuns would never
19 tolerate that kind of dirt then, but -- because the nuns
20 weren't even told about it, because the fellas were
21 afraid to -- you know, to tell the nuns. This --
22 I mean, if they don't know anything about it, how do
23 they know? You know what I mean? But it's really bad,
24 you know. It's bad that people could say things like
25 that. I think it's awful, you know. It's really --

1 it -- it was never like that. You know, I never got
2 into bother all my life.

3 Q. Okay. Well, HIA144, thank you very much for speaking to
4 us. Now I have finished what I want to ask you --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- but the Panel may have some questions for you. So if
7 you just stay there, please.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 **Questions from THE PANEL**

10 CHAIRMAN: HIA144, can I just take you back to something you
11 said about a visit from a lady from Donegal?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You described her speaking to you and asking how you
14 were doing --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and so on.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And you went on to say that, "There was more than me
19 from Donegal".

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Now you were in Termonbacca as a child --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- until you left school. So that was up until about
24 .

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Can you give us any idea as to how many other boys in
2 your age group there might have been from Donegal?

3 **A. Well, there was a boy called . He's from**
4 **Donegal. I wouldn't tell you offhand how many it was**
5 **like, but I knew well.**

6 Q. Well, was it just one or two or were there --

7 **A. No, I would say there would be more.**

8 Q. And would it be fair to say you'd probably only really
9 know about the people who were in your own age group
10 that you might --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- have been pally with in the school -- or in the house
13 rather?

14 **A. Excuse me. I am not with what you are telling me.**

15 Q. You might not have known much about a child who was
16 a lot younger than you from Donegal --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but you might know something about the people who
19 were more or less your own age -- would that be right --

20 **A. Well --**

21 Q. -- like the boy you were friendly with?

22 **A. There was this other boy. You called him HIA 121 .**
23 **He's from Donegal. You call him HIA 121, and there**
24 **was -- Jesus!**

25 Q. If you can't remember, it doesn't matter.

1 **A. Wait a minute. I've been trying to. I'm really trying.**

2 **It's that long ago. Did I say HIA 121?**

3 Q. You did. You said HIA 121 .

4 **A. Oh! HIA 88 I knew them. I knew them. They're from**
5 **Donegal.**

6 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

7 MS DOHERTY: Thanks for coming, HIA144. Can I just ask you
8 about something? Other boys have told us that when the
9 nuns went off to pray, and you were saying they were
10 praying quite a bit of the time that, the older boys
11 were left in charge. Do you remember that? Do you
12 remember older boys being left in charge?

13 **A. Yes, I do remember, yes.**

14 Q. And what was that like? How did they -- how were they?

15 **A. What was it like? Well, I suffered at the hands of**
16 **them.**

17 Q. Okay.

18 **A. We used to -- we were doing a passage one day and I got**
19 **a thing over me, my back.**

20 Q. Okay.

21 **A. That was one thing, and then you went to bed -- they put**
22 **you to bed and they gave you to six to go to sleep, you**
23 **know.**

24 Q. And if you didn't go to sleep, what would happen?

25 **A. They would hit you with the shaft of a brush --**

1 Q. Okay.

2 **A. -- you know. That's -- that's how I developed a lot of**
3 **things, you know.**

4 Q. We have heard from boys as well about sexual activity --

5 **A. Aye.**

6 Q. -- you know, about masturbation happening and it
7 happened quite a bit. Did you see any of that
8 happening?

9 **A. I never seen that.**

10 Q. You never saw that at all?

11 **A. No. I didn't know what it was--**

12 Q. Okay.

13 **A. -- you know.**

14 Q. Okay, and when you were --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Was that when you were a wain or ...?

20 **A. Aye.**

21 Q. Right.

22 **A. I had -- there is other things, but I can't -- you know,**
23 **I don't know. I have -- I am on a lot of medicine too,**
24 **you know --**

25 Q. Okay.

1 **A. -- things like that.**

2 Q. Okay. Thank you, HIA144.

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA144. Those are all the
4 questions we want to ask you today. Thank you for
5 coming to speak to us.

6 **A. Thanks very much, sir.**

7 Q. That's the end of it as far as we are concerned. Thank
8 you very much.

9 **A. Right then.**

10 **(Witness withdrew)**

11 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes today's evidence.

12 I don't believe we are due to sit again here until after
13 Easter.

14 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes
15 our public hearings now until the week after Easter
16 week, when we will resume on the Monday, and until then
17 there is nothing else I think we need to address in the
18 interim. Thank you.

19 (12.42 pm)

20 (Hearing adjourned until 28th April 2014)

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