

(O P E N S E S S I O N)

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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Wednesday, 30th April 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 29)

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

1 Wednesday, 30th April 2014

2 (In open session)

3 (10.30 am)

4 (Proceedings delayed)

5 (11.00 am)

6 WITNESS SR3 (called)

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

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

9 The first witness this morning is SR3, who is "SR3" on
10 our designation list, and was formerly SR3 and now her
11 name has reverted back to SR3.

12 She is aware, Chairman, that you are going to ask
13 her about taking the oath or affirming before I begin to
14 ask her any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Sister, I take it you'd like to take
16 the religious oath?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

19 WITNESS SR3 (sworn)

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

21 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

22 MR AIKEN: Now if it is acceptable to you, I'll call you
23 SR3.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. What I'm going to do, SR3, to begin with is bring up --

1 if we can have SND-4144 on the screen, please -- a copy
2 of the front page of your first witness statement of
3 12th November 2013. As I explained to you before you
4 came in, SR3, this is the redacted version, and if we
5 just take a moment to get the screen to where you're
6 happy, because there's a number of documents that we're
7 going to need to look at. Are you happy, SR3, that you
8 can see it?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. As I said to you beforehand, if -- like any other
11 witness, if at any stage you are having difficulty,
12 whether emotionally or otherwise, you just must say and
13 the Panel will -- will deal with that. You've got water
14 in front of you. Just take your time. You have made me
15 aware of a health difficulty and I have made the Panel
16 aware of that. So if any issue arises, you must alert
17 me to it, as we discussed.

18 Now this is the first page I hope of your first
19 statement and you have got the hard copy version of it
20 where you can see what's under the redactions. Can you
21 just confirm that is the first page?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. If we can go to page SND-4149, this should be the last
24 page of your first statement -- if you just check that
25 that's the case -- except for the redaction, and what I

1 want to ask you is for you to confirm that you have, in
2 fact, signed this statement and your signature would be
3 underneath this black redaction.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And you want to adopt the content of this statement as
6 your evidence --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- to the Inquiry. Now this morning I received a second
9 statement that you have prepared to assist the Inquiry
10 and we have managed to get that into the bundle. So if
11 we can bring up SND-17203, and again this now has
12 redactions applied to it. Credit to the staff back in
13 the office who have managed to get this done, but can
14 you confirm that this matches the front page of your
15 second statement that you have got the hard copy of?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. If we move through to SND-17205, can you look at your
18 hard copy version and confirm that this is the same last
19 page and that you have signed this statement --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- of 14th April of this year?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Now you are also aware when I explained to you about the
24 redactions are because of the Inquiry's anonymity
25 policy, which, while it is a matter for the Inquiry

1 ultimately, we ask each witness whether they want to
2 indicate that they want to keep their anonymity or not,
3 and I want to ask you: do you want to keep your
4 anonymity?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Now, SR3, what I was explaining to you beforehand, the
7 path that I intend to take, because there is a lot of
8 material that we need to cover, and I'm going to deal
9 with your background and history in Termonbacca, and
10 then I'm going to ask you about your experience there
11 and some general issues that you could assist the
12 Inquiry with. Then we're going to deal with a series of
13 allegations that have been made against you by I think
14 it's seven different individuals, and once we've done
15 all of that then we will have a closing set of questions
16 and then the Panel may want to ask you something. So
17 that's the path that I intend to take.

18 I am going try to summarise it as much as I can,
19 which hopefully will assist you and make this as
20 efficient as we can.

21 You are now

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And you were born in -- is it --

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

25 Q. -- in the in -- on

1 --

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

3 Q. -- which you pointed out to me this morning was

4

5 **A. That's right.**

6 Q. You deal with your background at paragraphs 1, 2 and 3

7 of your first statement. If we go to SND-4144, please,

8 if we just leave that on the screen, and if I summarise

9 it in this way, we have through piecing material

10 together and then receiving a helpful register that was

11 maintained in Termonbacca recently, if we can bring up

12 SND-17196, and if we maximise and scroll down to the

13 bottom of the screen, please, the bottom entry you can

14 take relates to you. You will see your "SR3" reference,

15 and it gives your family details and then indicates that

16 you entered the congregation in of --

17 **A. That's right.**

18 Q. -- when you were , and you came to Termonbacca on

19 when you were You were in

20 Termonbacca for two periods. Between and you

21 worked with the older boys in Termonbacca, and then you

22 left to do a nursing -- nurse qualification for a year

23 in .

24 **A. Two years.**

25 Q. Two years in , and eventually you came back to

1 Termonbacca in -- and you remained in
2 Termonbacca until

3 **A. That's right.**

4 Q. There are three sets of allegations that relate to your
5 first period when you were working with the older boys
6 between and and then a further set of
7 allegations that relate to your time working in the
8 nursery when you returned from through to . We
9 will deal with them in that way in those two blocks.

10 Now when you began working in Termonbacca, you had
11 no qualifications in relation to looking after children.
12 Is that right?

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. And had you been given any training from the
15 congregation before you took up this post working with
16 the older boys in Termonbacca?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. I was asking you before you came in about what say, if
19 any, you had in when you entered the congregation where
20 you ended up being placed and what you ended up doing.
21 Did you have any say over those two issues?

22 **A. Yes. I was asked is there any particular form of work
23 that the congregation did that I would like to do and
24 I did say I would like to work with children and luckily
25 I was given that position.**

1 Q. Your first appointment was to work in Termonbacca --

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

3 Q. -- with children in .

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now just to finish the background, you left in at
6 the age of , and thereafter you worked with children
7 in for a year?

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

9 Q. In for eight years?

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

11 Q. And those were smaller family homes -- they might have
12 been in big institutions, but you were looking after
13 smaller numbers of children?

14 **A. The situation in was it was a bigger house --**
15 **big house, but the children were in smaller groups, but**
16 **then when I went to , there was a big**
17 **house there, but there was also a smaller house like**
18 **a two-storey only building house, and I was there and**
19 **I had about maybe 16 to 18 children. It was called**
20 **. It was really like a group home.**

21 Q. So much smaller than Termonbacca?

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. And after your period in you have spent
24 years until of last year as a in
25 various homes --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- run by the congregation: , ,

3 and back to --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- where you

6 **A. That's right.**

7 Q. And you live there at the moment?

8 **A. I do, yes.**

9 Q. Now I want to take you back as best you can.

10 I appreciate this is 2014, but in you were years

11 of age and you arrived for the first time to

12 Termonbacca. What was that like?

13 **A. It was a bit daunting perhaps, but I started -- part of**
14 **the instruction -- there was a sister in charge of the**
15 **older children.**

16 Q. That was SR11?

17 **A. SR11, yes, and I more or less did -- we had no staff.**

18 **There was just the two of us looking after all those**

19 **children, and I probably spent most of my time doing the**

20 **housework, you know, because we had nobody to do the**

21 **cleaning or laundry. I spent a lot of time in the**

22 **laundry, doing the laundry for the children and**

23 **getting -- I would get ready for their meals in the**

24 **evening when they would come back from school, get them**

25 **ready in the morning for their breakfast, get the -- set**

1 **the tables and things like that.**

2 Q. And the training, as it were, how you discovered how you
3 were supposed to deal with the children was watching how
4 SR11 did it?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. There were no instructions as such given to you to
7 explain, "This is how we deal with this. This is how we
8 deal with that". It was simply you watched her and
9 replicated whatever she was doing?

10 **A. Well, I did what she asked me to do, you know. Like if**
11 **she asked me maybe at one time to go out and supervise**
12 **the children, I would go out and supervise them. If she**
13 **asked me to go and do the laundry or do the housework,**
14 **I did that.**

15 Q. We'll come on very shortly to the issue of numbers, but
16 you were , no training, and beginning to look after
17 a significant number of boys, something you had never
18 done before. Was that a difficult start, if I can
19 describe it in that way?

20 **A. Well, I suppose I was young at the time and I didn't see**
21 **it as a big problem.**

22 Q. You just got on with it?

23 **A. I just did it, yes.**

24 Q. You have mentioned that along -- SR11 worked with the
25 children along with you and the Superior who was there

1 at the time was SR13?

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

3 Q. You had a positive relationship with her?

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

5 Q. I made you aware there are other sisters who have
6 described Superiors being difficult or distant or
7 strict. You had a good relationship with this Superior?

8 **A. I had, yes, and when I came back to the nursery, the
9 Superior that was there then was SR137, and she was just
10 excellent. I got on great with her and she was lovely
11 to the children.**

12 Q. Now you mentioned the numbers and I am going to deal
13 with that. If we go to SND-4145 and paragraph 7 of your
14 first statement, you ...:

15 "My recollection is there were 60 boys in total
16 between the senior and junior section."

17 So that's not including the nursery. In fact, just
18 to set the context of this, just before you arrived, if
19 we can move to SND-12945, the then MP Eddie McAteer, who
20 was advocating on the congregation's behalf, has written
21 indicating that there were no less than 87 children in
22 Termonbacca just before you arrive. Does that scale
23 accord with your memory?

24 **A. I suppose with the older boys, including the nursery, it
25 probably would amount to that number.**

1 Q. In , whenever you are coming back to the nursery --
2 SND-7842, please -- there are 88 children. We can see
3 -- just halfway down the page you will see "St. Joseph's
4 Home, Termonbacca" listed:

5 "Total: 88."

6 So the numbers staying and I think by , when
7 you're leaving, the capacity has come down slightly and
8 there's normally -- SND-6046 -- normally 60 children.

9 What I want to ask you, first of all, is were you
10 ever made aware -- and I am going to show you the Home
11 Office memoranda that I mentioned to you beforehand at
12 HIA, rather than SND, please, HIA-469. This was a Home
13 Office document that was sent to -- this is the covering
14 letter sending it to the various homes.

15 If we just move to the next page, please, this was
16 a document -- a guidance document, in effect, produced
17 to guide how you should conduct a children's home. Were
18 you ever told about this document?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. You were never shown it?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. If we look at page HIA-471, please -- I am not going to
23 go through this in any detail save to say to you, SR3,
24 the document, when you look at the detail of what's
25 being said about staff, suggests there should be one

1 member of staff to five children. There is another
2 document that suggests perhaps one to between three and
3 six children, but what you are describing is one to 30
4 children during . Is that right?

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

6 Q. In your -- I have just had an opportunity to consider
7 briefly your recent statement. If we go to SND-17205
8 and paragraph 20, you acknowledge here that there really
9 was insufficient staff to look after the number of
10 children that you were looking after.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. I think one of your colleagues says in her statement it
13 was going to be virtually impossible to properly
14 supervise that number of children with the number of
15 staff that we are talking about. Would you agree with
16 that?

17 **A. I would, yes.**

18 Q. Now I want to ask you about your time when you are
19 working in the home and about inspectors coming into the
20 home. You mention in your statement at SND-4149, your
21 first statement, at paragraph 42 -- you say you do
22 remember inspections taking place. If we just magnify
23 that, please, for SR3:

24 "We did have inspections by the State inspectors."

25 Now there is sadly a problem in that the file from

1 the Home Office -- from the Ministry of Home Affairs
2 that would perhaps have included these reports of the
3 inspections can't be found that relates to this period,
4 but you remember State inspectors coming in to check on
5 the home?

6 **A. I do, yes.**

7 Q. You say you didn't have much need of being involved with
8 them, but you remember them being there?

9 **A. I remember them being there, yes.**

10 Q. And can you remember how often they might have come?
11 Was it every few months or was it every year?

12 **A. Maybe once a year.**

13 Q. Once a year?

14 **A. At the most, yes.**

15 Q. And would they have -- can you remember what they did
16 when they came?

17 **A. Well, they were -- I think they would come around and
18 maybe talk to the children and perhaps supervise a meal.
19 The children were having their tea -- their supper
20 I mean. They would go in, but I can't really remember
21 what they did actually very much.**

22 Q. Was most of their involvement talking to the --

23 **A. The Sister in charge.**

24 Q. -- Superior who was in charge --

25 **A. Yes --**

1 Q. -- rather than --

2 **A. -- or SR11.**

3 Q. SR11?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So would you have seen yourself as SR11's deputy --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- if I can put it that way? She was the --

8 **A. She was the person in charge.**

9 Q. Now the -- in terms of funding there was no collecting
10 that went on from the Sisters in Termonbacca, but you
11 know that those in Bishop Street did collecting to raise
12 money.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. But there is something you want to say to the Inquiry
15 about the approach of the people of Derry and of
16 companies and organisations within Derry about the
17 support they gave to you running --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- the children's homes.

20 **A. Yes. The one -- the one thing I think we were lucky in**
21 **Termonbacca was we had the farm. We had our own milk,**
22 **we had our own vegetables and the food was good. I will**
23 **say that. There was a factory in Derry, Desmond's**
24 **factory, and I know some of the girls that work in**
25 **Desmond's very well, because one of them helped me as**

1 a volunteer in the nursery, and they were very generous
2 to us in giving us pyjamas and shirts and things like
3 that for the children. Also another family, I remember
4 them even buying cots for the children for me when I --
5 this was when I was in the nursery. They bought cots
6 for the children, and St. Vincent de Paul were excellent
7 and they would help us out.

8 Q. So you have a good memory of the level of community
9 support that was being given to the congregation running
10 the two children's homes in Bishop Street and
11 Termonbacca?

12 A. Yes, yes. The one good thing that I always -- will
13 always remember is that the food was very good, because
14 we had our own cows. We had our own vegetables. We had
15 our own food, you know.

16 Q. What was -- if you can try as best you can to transport
17 yourself back to You are a young lady working
18 in the children's home in Termonbacca. What was life
19 like around you in terms of was there everybody had
20 plenty? Was it hard times? How would you describe the
21 time you are talking about?

22 A. As I said about the food, the food was good. I will say
23 that. Now the children had a lot going for them. We
24 had a choir master who came maybe once a week, took the
25 children for choir practice. We had -- they had a band,

1 and the one thing I remember about the band was on
2 a Sunday morning they would practise up and down the
3 drive in Termonbacca. I don't know if you are aware but
4 cows love music and the cows would all line up and watch
5 the children playing the band. We had a dance person
6 came in that taught children dancing. I did say about
7 the choir master. We had a gentleman who came in and
8 organised boxing sessions for the children. So they had
9 -- you know, they had quite a lot going for them.

10 Q. Did you ever get the opportunity -- you were now living
11 and working in this children's home. Was there ever
12 an opportunity to see how another children's home
13 operated, to compare how you were doing things --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- with how they were doing?

16 **A. I never visited another home.**

17 Q. Now I want to ask you then about the Welfare Authority,
18 because from 1950 onwards the Children & Young Persons
19 Act and the legislation that dealt with public services
20 and the Welfare State set up the welfare authorities
21 both in Derry City and in the surrounding county, and
22 I want to ask you do you recollect any interaction
23 between those of you working in Termonbacca and the
24 Welfare Authority?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. Am I right in saying that certainly during your first
2 period all of the children in Termonbacca were private
3 admissions? By that I mean they were not in the care of
4 the State and placed in Termonbacca?

5 **A. No. That's correct, yes.**

6 Q. So they were private admissions?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Can you remember, because obviously these new
9 institutions have been created in the early '50s, was
10 there a view in Termonbacca among the Sisters or in the
11 congregation that you can recall more generally, because
12 these changes happened across the United Kingdom, about
13 what interaction there should be between your type of
14 organisation doing voluntary work with children and the
15 Welfare Authority State sector who was starting to run
16 children's homes as well? Was it ever discussed?

17 **A. No, no, no, no.**

18 Q. Now you indicate at paragraph 21 at SND-4146 that at the
19 time period we are talking about you don't remember lots
20 of social workers visiting, but you do recall SND483.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. I think you mention her again at paragraph 42 at
23 SND-4149. Just maximise that for me, please.

24 "There were a couple who visited and SND483 is" --
25 "SND483" you have said here -- "is one I recall."

1 Now can you remember was SND483 at this point coming
2 in on behalf of the diocese, the church or was she
3 coming in on behalf of the Welfare Authority?

4 **A. Well, what I -- my recollection of SND483 to the best of**
5 **my knowledge was that she came in to have a child**
6 **admitted and ...**

7 Q. You are not -- do you know whether that was another
8 private admission or was that a child in the care of the
9 State?

10 **A. I'd say -- I'd say it would be a private admission.**

11 Q. Now I want you to look at -- you say in paragraph 11 of
12 your statement at SND-4145 that you truly loved your
13 time in Termonbacca and you were heartbroken when you
14 eventually left. I want to ask you about leaving. Did
15 you have any control over the decision to leave?

16 **A. No. I was --**

17 Q. Were you simply told, "You are leaving and going to X or
18 Y"?

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. And were you -- had you any involvement in deciding
21 whether that was still going to be working with children
22 or whether it was going to be doing something else?

23 **A. Oh, well, I knew I was going to work with children.**

24 Q. But did you have control over that or was it simply you
25 were being told, "This is what you're doing"?

1 **A. Well, I think it was more or less taken for granted that**
2 **if you worked with children, that's what you would do.**

3 Q. Throughout your period --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- whichever home you were in?

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. Now you are describing a positive experience in
8 Termonbacca. What I want to do, if we can bring up HIA,
9 please, rather than SND, HIA-1416, this is a document
10 that the Inquiry Panel has considered before and it is
11 a record from 1953, so years before you arrive in
12 Termonbacca, and it is SND521, who was one of the Home
13 Affairs Inspectors, who visited a number of voluntary
14 homes, and this is what she had to say in 1953 about the
15 four Nazareth homes, including St. Joseph's,
16 Termonbacca, and I just want you to consider this and
17 then I am going to ask you a couple of questions about
18 it.

19 "The children in these 4 homes especially have
20 nothing like a normal upbringing. They must feel
21 unloved as it is just not possible for the number of
22 staff to show affection to such large numbers of
23 children. They can know little or nothing of the world
24 outside (as with one exception school is on the
25 premises)" -- Termonbacca was the one exception -- "and

1 must be completely unprepared for it either in character
2 or knowledge. I find these homes utterly depressing and
3 it appalls me to think that these hundreds of children
4 are being reared in bleak lovelessness. This is not
5 meant entirely as criticism of the staff, but their task
6 is impossible. Some of them have, however, little idea
7 of what a child's life should be. They have got used to
8 their own institutional set-up. For example, when asked
9 about the children going out, one replied, 'Oh, yes,
10 they go to the circus at Christmas'. If it is their
11 sole contact with the world, they must have a distorted
12 idea of it! Even their 'godparent' scheme is unreal, as
13 instead of getting ordinary folk somewhere near the
14 children's own level to be 'uncles and aunts' they have
15 looked for businessmen who will give the boys jobs on
16 leaving -- regardless of whether the business is likely
17 to suit the boy.

18 In short, I think we must press for complete
19 overhaul of the whole set-up of these homes, and assist
20 them in every way possible."

21 Now I appreciate you may be seeing that for the
22 first time, but do you recognise the type of place that
23 SND521 is describing?

24 **A. Certainly not the nursery.**

25 Q. Now you are drawing a distinction -- the nursery is

1 to .

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. What I want to ask you -- we'll break it into the two
4 parts. The first period, , you are in the
5 older boys' section. You gave me an answer there:

6 "Certainly not the nursery."

7 What do you -- do you recognise the older boys'
8 section in what SND521 is describing?

9 **A. Well, the children went off to school. We didn't have**
10 **school in the house. They went out to school and they**
11 **had lots of, you know, visitors coming in. St. Vincent**
12 **de Paul came in on a regular basis. They had people**
13 **coming in to show them films.**

14 Q. So there are those positive things you can point to?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But what she's describing is it would be impossible for
17 the staff to show affection to these children because of
18 the numbers. Is that something you would accept?

19 **A. Maybe, yes, yes.**

20 Q. And she -- her impression -- and this is why I want to
21 ask you if it was yours -- and again I am talking about
22 the period when you're working with older
23 boys -- as it being a place that was utterly depressing,
24 because of the lovelessness that inevitably flowed from
25 so many children and so little staff, is that something

1 you recognise or do you think, "No, it wasn't like
2 that"?

3 **A. Well, the Sisters were as kind to the children as they**
4 **possibly could be. You would have times you could sit**
5 **down and talk to the children.**

6 Q. So are you saying it's not as bad as SND521's experience
7 or her view of it?

8 **A. I wouldn't think it, yes.**

9 Q. Then you drew the distinction with the nursery, so
10 that's the period Was it better than
11 working with the older boys and better than SND521's
12 description of her visit in 1953?

13 **A. Definitely. The nursery was more a homely place and the**
14 **first four years I was in the nursery I had the children**
15 **from the age of 2 to maybe 5 or 6, when they were then**
16 **transferred over to the older boys, and then in maybe**
17 **...**

18 Q. ?

19 **A. Yes. I decided that it might be a good idea to admit**
20 **families, and we then started taking in families, and**
21 **that was the time we first took in girls into the**
22 **nursery, and I think it was the best thing we ever did,**
23 **because they made more homely. Before that if families**
24 **were being admitted, the boys went -- the girls went**
25 **down to Bishop Street to Nazareth House and the girl --**

1 and the boys stayed in Termonbacca whereas now I thought
2 it was a better idea to keep the families together. So
3 we set up -- we got organised and we admitted families
4 into the nursery.

5 Q. We will come to look at that, SR3, with HIA8 and HIA7's
6 evidence shortly, but you are saying you decided that's
7 what should happen, and did you have to persuade the
8 Mother Superior that this policy change should take
9 place?

10 A. Well, I would have discussed it with her and, you know,
11 she was in agreement. I mean, I couldn't have done it
12 without her ...

13 Q. Why did you come to recognise in and around that
14 splitting families -- splitting children up, sending
15 them to two different places, was not a good idea?

16 A. Well, personally I thought it wasn't a good idea.
17 I thought a family should be a family and should, you
18 know, be kept together and that's why I thought, "Why
19 not see if this -- if we can work this out in
20 Termonbacca?"

21 Q. Why do you think it took until for that to happen?

22 A. I suppose it took some time to think about it and to
23 plan it and we had to work things out and maybe change
24 round the nursery, because before that it was -- you
25 know, we would have to get bigger beds. We would have

1 **to get, you know ...**

2 Q. Looking back at it now, would it not appear obvious that
3 keeping brothers and sisters together would have been
4 the best way to operate?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And to the extent you can why do you think that was not
7 done in your first period, if you like, within the
8 congregation working with children? Why was that not
9 the main -- "We must keep the kids together". Why did
10 that not happen?

11 **A. I really don't know.**

12 Q. But from on certainly in Termonbacca until it
13 closed it did happen?

14 **A. It did.**

15 Q. Now I want to ask you about a particular issue that the
16 Inquiry has heard a lot about from witnesses who have
17 come to give evidence and that's the subject of
18 bedwetting. I think you do deal with this in your
19 second statement. If we go to SND-17203, paragraph 4,
20 you say:

21 "If a boy wet the bed, he took off the sheet and
22 went for a bath. The sheets were washed in the laundry.
23 I never saw any child being ridiculed for bedwetting."

24 Now what I want you to reflect on, SR3, is when you
25 began working with SR11 in the boys' dormitory in

1 Termonbacca, was there ever a discussion with you,
2 "Look, there is a problem here for a small minority or
3 a significant minority of our boys wetting the bed.
4 Here's how we deal with it"?

5 **A. No. The situation was there were two dormitories.**
6 **There was I suppose 14 in one dormitory or maybe 13 in**
7 **the other dormitory. Now the younger ones slept in one**
8 **dormitory and I slept in a sort of a cubicle off that**
9 **dormitory and --**

10 Q. So the junior dormitory and senior dormitory of the
11 older boys?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And you were sleeping in the junior dormitory?

14 **A. Yes, and the boys were called in the morning. If they**
15 **had wet their bed, it was just taken for granted they**
16 **would take off the sheet off the bed, take their clothes**
17 **that was beside their bed, go down to the bathroom, put**
18 **the wet sheet into some sort of a container, have their**
19 **bath and get dressed.**

20 Q. Did it not ever come up as a subject for discussion
21 amongst the Sisters, "Why are these children wetting the
22 bed?"

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. I want you to look at HIA, please, rather than SND,
25 HIA-474, which again is the 1952 guidance that was

1 issued to voluntary homes and Welfare Authority homes
2 and paragraphs 23 and 24.

3 22 talks about making sure the child is comfortable
4 in bed and that helps prevent night terrors and
5 bedwetting:

6 "Bedwetting cannot be attributed to any one cause:
7 if effective help is to be given, the child must be
8 studied as an individual. The trouble may be due to
9 an organic cause, to delay in learning bladder control,
10 or to emotional disturbance due to loneliness, a sense
11 of being left in strange surroundings or of not being
12 wanted."

13 Now if you reflect now, SR3, on in the
14 junior dormitory with boys wetting the bed, the age of
15 those children from about 5 to 6 upwards --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- towards 10 --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- if you had been made aware of what's in this
20 paragraph in this guidance, do you think that more steps
21 would have been taken to try to help those children who
22 were wetting the bed?

23 **A. Probably would.**

24 Q. You will see it goes on to say:

25 "A feeling of hopelessness about the habit may cause

1 it to persist. A child who persistently wets the bed
2 should be seen by the medical officer so that he can
3 advise on treatment or, if necessary, refer the case to
4 a hospital or child guidance clinic."

5 Were any of the children who were wetting the bed
6 referred to the doctor?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. "Understanding and consideration on the part of the
9 staff are of the first importance. Bed wetters should
10 not be separated from other children, and members of the
11 staff dealing with the child or with the wet bed should
12 proceed in a matter of fact way and should never exhibit
13 impatience, disgust or anxiety. Mackintosh sheets
14 should be used only when necessary; when they have to be
15 used a thin blanket should be placed between the
16 mackintosh and the bed sheet. Sheets should always be
17 changed after being wet. Bed wetters should not be
18 required to wash their sheet. There is nothing to be
19 gained by restricting drinks unreasonably ...", and so
20 on.

21 Looking at this -- this is written in 1952, so
22 years before you came to work in that dormitory -- had
23 you been told this, would you have dealt with the bed
24 wetters differently?

25 **A. Perhaps I would have discussed it with sister and see**

1 that's to do with sexual matters. I want to ask you
2 about it in three stages. The first is about the
3 experimentation that might go on between a group of boys
4 living together; then I want to ask you about what's now
5 described as a concept of peer abuse, so normally older
6 boys interfering with younger boys; and then I want to
7 ask you about staff or adults abusing boys.

8 In terms of the boys that were in your care in
9 to , and the -- as you're aware from me speaking to
10 you, a number of witnesses have come forward to the
11 Inquiry, including those against whom allegations have
12 been made, who have said that sexual activity between
13 the boys was a common occurrence.

14 Were you ever aware of even experimentation taking
15 place consensually between boys who were in your care?

16 **A. Never. Never. I had no idea.**

17 Q. Were you ever -- as you are beginning and SR11 is there
18 and you are learning on the job, were you ever made
19 aware of boys and how they might behave as they pass
20 through puberty and anything of that nature?

21 **A. No, no.**

22 Q. Was it something that was simply not discussed?

23 **A. No, it was never discussed, not with me.**

24 Q. Now a number of individuals who have given evidence to
25 the Inquiry have complained about and others have talked

1 about peer abuse, so older boys who have been in the
2 home sexually abusing younger boys, and a number have
3 described how they were a victim as a younger boy, and
4 then as they got older, they repeated the same behaviour
5 as an older boy on younger boys who came after them.

6 Were you ever aware of that type of activity going
7 on in Termonbacca?

8 **A. No. There was one -- there was one boy, HIA121, who**
9 **kept in contact with me until very recently and on**
10 **a telephone conversation he did say to me -- he said,**
11 **"I knew that you were not aware that this was going on".**

12 Q. We will come to him in respect of some of the things he
13 says --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- but as that as an example, at some stage he told you
16 about what he says happened to him at the hands of older
17 boys.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. And what you are saying is he acknowledged at this later
20 date that you weren't aware of that happening.

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. Do you think any of the sisters were aware of it
23 happening?

24 **A. I wouldn't think so.**

25 Q. Do you think that if you had had the staff to supervise

1 more thoroughly, you might have known that it was
2 happening?

3 **A. Perhaps, yes.**

4 Q. And that would have given you at least an opportunity
5 amongst yourselves and reaching for outside help to work
6 out how to deal with it?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Now I want to ask you then about adults abusing boys on
9 a general basis. Was that something you were ever aware
10 of taking place?

11 **A. Never.**

12 Q. That's an issue that we will come back to later.

13 Now you have mentioned HIA121. I am going to now
14 deal with the series of individuals. I am just
15 wondering, Chairman -- it is 11.55 -- whether now would
16 be before I begin the individuals ...

17 CHAIRMAN: Well, we didn't start until 11.00. Perhaps you
18 would carry on a little longer.

19 MR AIKEN: Keep going.

20 HIA121, he is "HIA121", and like all the names you
21 and I will mention and have mentioned, none of them are
22 to be reported and for the purposes of the transcript
23 they are all to be redacted, but he is in Termonbacca
24 from to , between the ages of and , and you
25 are there between and when he is between

1 and and you are .

2 Now he -- I am not going to pull it up, but for the
3 record at SND-644, paragraph 20 of his statement he has
4 you at or . So he has got you -- he remembers you
5 and he's got your age at the time right. He says, if we
6 bring up SND-644, paragraph 19, that he was always
7 running away because of the serious sexual abuse that he
8 says was perpetrated on him by older boys. He describes
9 them as monitors.

10 What I want to ask you about before we talk about
11 his specific allegation, this term "monitors" or "charge
12 boys", older boys helping out with the supervision,
13 because there were so few of the sisters, do you
14 remember those -- that practice of having them -- older
15 boys help supervise?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. Is it possible that this took place without you
18 necessarily having said to some of the older guys, "You
19 keep order"? Is that --

20 **A. I'm not -- I'm not aware of that happening.**

21 Q. Well, can I ask you this: there were times during the
22 day when you as a nun went off to pray, for instance.
23 Who looked after the boys when you weren't there?

24 **A. One of the sisters would have stayed behind. One would**
25 **have gone and one would have stayed behind.**

1 Q. So you would have had one sister with 60 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- to 70 in a very large both building and surrounding
4 lands.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. What he's describing here are people he says were
7 monitors, older boys supposed to do supervising, and as
8 a result of what happened to him, he says he began to
9 run away all the time. Do you remember him running
10 away?

11 **A. Never.**

12 Q. You don't. If we just scroll down, please, what he
13 says -- just stop, please -- he says that when you --
14 when he would have come back, brought back quite often
15 by the RUC, you would have smirked at him and made
16 a derogatory remark about, "Welcome back, your Majesty".
17 Would you have spoken to some of the older boys in
18 a sarcastic, negative way?

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. Never?

21 **A. I don't -- no.**

22 Q. No. He says then you would leave and he would then get
23 another beating from the older boys. Was there
24 a problem ever with physical -- older boys bullying the
25 younger boys?

1 **A. I never witnessed it.**

2 Q. He -- if we go to SND-14857, on 10th December 1995 he
3 made a statement to the Gardai about what he says
4 occurred for him. He says, if you -- he deals with the
5 wetting of the bed:

6 "I constantly wet the bed. Those of us who wet the
7 bed ... had to fall into one straight line at the door
8 of the dormitory."

9 He says they were rounded up by the older boys. He
10 describes how they were called "dirty pigs". He says
11 you were sneering as they were being formed into this
12 line. A report would be made by the older boy to the
13 nun about how many children had wet the bed, and then
14 you tell them to run down to the bathroom, which was
15 about -- just scroll down -- 200 yards down the
16 corridor, and he describes being physically attacked by
17 these older boys.

18 Do you have any memory of that type of problem
19 arising whenever the bed wetting was being dealt with?

20 **A. That never happened.**

21 Q. At SND-14858 in December of 1995 again in this statement
22 made to the Gardai he alleges that -- he says you -- you
23 will see:

24 "This particular nun was to me the most vindictive
25 woman I have ever met in my life. She flagged and beat

1 me so many times for everything and anything. She
2 didn't need an excuse. Her favourite weapon was a long
3 thin white rubber strap which she removed from the
4 dining table, which used to attach the table tops. She
5 didn't mind ... where she hit [me] ..."

6 He can still recall the marks.

7 Can I ask you was there a white rubber strap
8 implement that secured the table?

9 **A. No, no.**

10 Q. You don't have any memory of that?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. He's saying that you, whether it be with that device or
13 something else, struck him. Do you have any memory of
14 that?

15 **A. I never hit a boy.**

16 Q. You never hit a boy. You made me aware that you want to
17 make the Inquiry aware of his interaction with you from
18 you and then he left Termonbacca. So do you want to
19 summarise for the Inquiry?

20 **A. Yes. HIA121, I was in constant contact with him over**
21 **the years. About nine years ago I was in at the**
22 **time and he made a request that if I spent a whole day**
23 **with him, that he would put all his worries as regards**
24 **Termonbacca behind him.**

25 So I left in the morning about 10 o'clock and

1 I went down , and there's a sort of a guest house
2 there, and the sister there set up a private room where
3 HIA121 and myself had lunch together. We went to mass
4 together. We went to the stations of the cross
5 together. He went out to confession and I waited until
6 he came out. We -- I spent the whole day -- we had tea
7 again in the afternoon together and I stayed -- I didn't
8 leave until about 7 o'clock in the evening, and he
9 said that's really all he wanted was to spend one full
10 day with me, and I did that for him.

11 Then -- we kept in contact all the time. He often
12 rang me. He would ring me maybe once a fortnight.
13 I had letters from him. Oh, it's -- several letters,
14 hundreds of letters I got from him. Postcards. If
15 he was going abroad or anywhere, he would send me those
16 postcards, and then a couple of months ago before the
17 Inquiry was actually taken off the ground he said to me,
18 "Oh", he said, "something's going happen up in the
19 North", he said, "about an Inquiry about the ... but",
20 he said, "I'm having nothing to do with that", and
21 that's the last time I heard from HIA121.

22 Q. The day that you're describing you spent with him, that
23 day was because he was telling you of the issues he had
24 at Termonbacca?

25 A. No. He didn't actually mention much about abuse or

1 anything. He just said that, you know, he's -- his
2 recollections of Termonbacca weren't very happy ones
3 and -- but he wanted to put it all behind him. Some of
4 the conversations I had with him on the telephone were
5 horrendous, especially about his home and his father and
6 his mother and all that. They really were, and he told
7 me stories about the day his father died and that he was
8 carrying his father's coffin and the coffin was so heavy
9 that he was sure the devil was inside the coffin. So
10 they had to put it on, and these were the kind of
11 stories that HIA121 would have told me over the years.

12 Q. Now HIA121's brother HIA46, who is "HIA46", he was also
13 in Termonbacca in the same period, ' so
14 covering the period that you were there, which was
15 So he was between and at the time. You
16 were to .

17 He describes -- if we go to SND-1339, please, in
18 paragraph 8 of his statement he says he got thumped and
19 kicked by the nuns on occasions, not to the same extent
20 as other children. He thought he got off quite lightly:

21 "The nuns would lose control with anger and rage and
22 there was often no cause for that behaviour."

23 Do you remember any of the nuns you worked with ever
24 losing their temper?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you remember them ever being extremely angry?

2 **A. No, no, no.**

3 Q. Being cross?

4 **A. They might have corrected a child and ...**

5 Q. But --

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. -- nothing more than that?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. He says:

10 "The only nun I can recall with any clarity now is",
11 you, "SR3. She was in charge of the senior dormitory
12 and she was always derogatory and negative with her
13 comments. Her very presence felt like a threat to me.
14 You were always on edge and I felt I had to constantly
15 protect myself to avoid triggering these adults into
16 a fit of rage."

17 **A. I wasn't in charge of the senior dormitory.**

18 Q. It was the junior dormitory?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. But dealing with the substance of his -- he amplified
21 what he meant by that about derogatory and negative
22 comments if we can look at SND-17026. This is what he
23 said during his evidence. It is pages 23 and 24 of the
24 transcript unfortunately. If we can -- what I am
25 looking for is the two columns -- the column at the

1 right of the page, if it is possible to maximise. Yes.
2 If you just scroll down a little further. That will do.
3 If you look over to the right -- I am sorry this is so
4 difficult to read, SR3, but:

5 "Can I pause there to ask you what you mean by
6 that?"

7 He is being asked about this suggestion of
8 derogatory comments from you:

9 "Well, the language used there was derogatory and
10 negative and also diminishing, so to speak. It was a
11 form of psychological abuse, but in a concrete manner it
12 expressed itself by -- you were described as various
13 things, like a Jew, a tinker, a tramp born beside the
14 road. You were worth nothing. Your mother didn't want
15 you. Your father didn't want you. You are a" -- I am
16 not sure what that word means -- "misfoster". Imposter?
17 I'm not sure. "You are this and you're that. If you
18 are fed with that type of diet from a adult who is a
19 nun, over time with a vulnerable child it kicks in,
20 makes effect, and it's over time, and I mean years, and
21 a group of children being subjected to that type of
22 verbal abuse makes an impact, and it did with me."

23 Now if I can summarise it in this way, what he is
24 describing is that would be lovelessness if it were
25 true.

1 **A. It is not true.**

2 Q. But bear with me. If that was happening, that would be
3 an unpleasant environment for a child. He is saying
4 that's the way he was treated. You have no recollection
5 of anyone being treated like that?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. Now the third individual from that first period and we
8 are going deal with him at the end --

9 CHAIRMAN: We might have a short break now. We will start
10 again at 12.15, please.

11 (12.10 pm)

12 (Short break)

13 (12.15 pm)

14 MR AIKEN: SR3, we were starting to deal with -- with
15 HIA130. If we can -- he was "HIA130". He was in
16 Termonbacca between and . So that's the period
17 in which you were working in the nursery. You were
18 there between and

19 Now if we can bring up SND-2145, please, and
20 paragraph 6. Just scroll down for me. He says that:

21 "[You] would chastise the children with something
22 that looked like a spatula and she would whack them on
23 the backside with this thing. I recall her doing this
24 in the shower room. This all happened in the nursery."

25 Now I think you say about that in your statement

1 I have seen today -- at SND-17204 and paragraph 15 you
2 say you have no recollection of this individual. You
3 don't remember him.

4 **A. No. There was no shower room.**

5 Q. There was just a bath in the bathroom?

6 **A. Definitely.**

7 Q. Whenever the premises -- you were in the nursery over
8 the period of redevelopment. Whenever the new
9 Termonbacca, if I call it that, opened, was there not
10 showers then?

11 **A. Not in the nursery.**

12 Q. Not in the nursery?

13 **A. No, no.**

14 Q. Were there showers then in --

15 **A. I don't know about the children.**

16 Q. So in the nursery it -- in the new nursery --

17 **A. There never was.**

18 Q. -- it was still just baths?

19 **A. Baths, yes.**

20 Q. And he -- you say that you never struck any child with
21 an object --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- or in any other way?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. You never hit a child?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. And the type of implement he is talking about, the
3 spatula, do you remember was there such a thing?

4 **A. I don't know what' he's talking about.**

5 Q. You don't know what he's talking about.

6 Now then I move to another individual, HIA7, who was
7 "HIA7". Now she was in Termonbacca with her sister,
8 HIA8, between and . So again you are in the
9 nursery.

10 If we go to her statement, please, at SND-2033, she
11 describes she was one of the first girls to be in the
12 nursery part of Termonbacca. This is . This is
13 when this first happened, but you have no recollection
14 of her or her sister?

15 **A. No. There are some of the children that I just don't**
16 **remember, because there was, you know, quite a -- I was**
17 **there years and quite a lot of children passed**
18 **through my hands and I just don't remember them.**

19 Q. Yes. Why I was wondering whether these girls would
20 stick out is for the reasons that we will look at now:

21 "There was a large dormitory. On the right-hand
22 side there was a bedroom and it had a glass window and
23 a door and that's where I slept with my eldest sister
24 HIA8. My other sister, who is a year older than me,
25 slept out in a dorm on her own. Next door to that was

1 a bath and next door to that were the toilets. In the
2 first dorm there were a lot of cots. In the second dorm
3 it was only my sister and she slept in the very end bed
4 near the window. There were a lot of empty beds in the
5 dorm and sometimes families would come and go from the
6 home."

7 So what she and her sister are describing is the
8 nursery unit with the cots, the dorm, as she calls it,
9 that has the cots, and she says there were about 20 of
10 those, and then this dorm, which is the changed place
11 that you had been involved in orchestrating so that
12 girls could come to be part of families in Termonbacca,
13 and those two sisters are describing themselves as the
14 long stayers, if I can put it that way. They are there
15 for a -year period. They are the main -- at times
16 they are the only people in this dorm, and some children
17 do come and go, but they are the ones who remain. Does
18 that help you remember the two girls?

19 **A. We never -- there never would have been 20 cots in the**
20 **nursery.**

21 Q. Don't worry about the 20 cots. I am trying to deal with
22 the two girls and what they are describing in the area
23 that was created for girls to be able to stay in
24 Termonbacca. So she's describing the place where the
25 cots were, whatever number there were, and then another

1 room which had beds for older children, where she and
2 her sister slept, and then there was a bedroom off it
3 where another sister slept. What she is describing is,
4 "We are the people who are there all the time. There
5 are some other children who come and then go, but we are
6 the ones who are there living". Does that help you
7 remember these two?

8 **A. Not really, no.**

9 Q. No. She was between and at the time she is there in
10 the nursery and she describes -- if we look at SND-2035,
11 she describes you -- her coming back to the home after
12 a summer holiday. She had been given some clothes and
13 some money.

14 "Every time I came back ..."

15 you would take her into a room and the clothes that
16 she had been given and the money was taken off her.

17 Can you remember was there a policy to keep the
18 children in the uniform, if you like, the clothes that
19 they had in the home, and therefore if they brought
20 something new in, it was put away?

21 **A. No, because I don't even remember her going home and
22 coming back. I don't ever remember her.**

23 Q. That's why I phrased the question in a way if we leave
24 her aside, do you remember if children were out and came
25 back with new clothes -- say they had been staying with

1 a family who decided to buy them a jumper -- because
2 everyone wore the same clothing, perhaps if someone came
3 in with a new red jumper with Santa on it or something
4 of that type, then sticking out like that wouldn't have
5 been something you wanted, and therefore that jumper
6 would be put away so that they would keep wearing the
7 normal attire in the home.

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. That didn't happen?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. The issue about money, do you ever remember was there
12 a practice of if children came in having been given
13 things like money, that it was taken from them?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. No. Now she then describes in paragraph 12 how her hair
16 had grown long, and when she couldn't find the elastics
17 for her hair, she got hit over the head with the glass
18 hairbrush almost every day.

19 Now you have already said you never hit a child --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. -- and certainly never used an implement to hit a child.
22 So can I take it that that is not something you accept?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. I am not going to pull it up, but the Inquiry Panel have
25 seen it. You have dealt with these allegations in your

1 first statement. Just for the record it is at SND-4145
2 and paragraphs 12 through to 24.

3 I am just checking there isn't anything in the new
4 statement. Just bear with me for a moment, SR3. No.

5 So what you say at paragraph 16 -- I had better just
6 let you see this. At SND-4146 you say not only did you
7 not hit her with a glass hairbrush, but you don't recall
8 there ever being a glass or similar hairbrush in the
9 house.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. Presumably there was a hairbrush of some kind to brush
12 the children's hair?

13 **A. Definitely not a glass one.**

14 Q. What type was it? Can you remember?

15 **A. You know, an ordinary plastic or ...**

16 Q. Was it quite a thick ...?

17 **A. No. An ordinary -- kind of a long hairbrush, you know.**

18 Q. But it definitely wasn't a glass hairbrush?

19 **A. No, definitely not.**

20 Q. If we go back to SND-2035, please, she describes you
21 coming down to the school to take her away by the hair
22 and you hit her on the arms, shoulders and back, and you
23 said in the statement not only did you not hit her; you
24 never went to the school at any time.

25 **A. I was never inside another school in Derry in all the**

1 **years I was there.**

2 Q. At paragraph 14 she describes wetting the bed,
3 a particular problem for one of her sisters, and how her
4 older sister would have tried to hide what was happening
5 in order to avoid getting hit. She remembers her sister
6 HIA8, who describes this same incident, getting a black
7 eye at one stage as a result of you hitting her. Do you
8 have any memory of that happening?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. Even as an accident?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. You will see there in paragraph 15 she describes, as I
13 say, they were there as a more permanent two girls
14 living in this dorm. She describes two sisters from
15 coming and then going.

16 Now she describes -- if we go to SND-2037,
17 paragraph 22, she felt that she was always going to get
18 hit with the back of your hand or was going to be roared
19 at by you.

20 Can you as far as you can consider is it possible
21 that anything about how the way you behaved might have
22 caused a child to think like this?

23 **A. I never roared or ...**

24 Q. You never?

25 **A. Roared at a child.**

1 Q. You never roared at a child. She says that she saw her
2 older sister getting hit much more than her. That's
3 a constant impression she gives of constantly being
4 struck. It was just part of -- part of life for her in
5 the girls' part of the nursery part of Termonbacca,
6 being hit.

7 Now she then describes the nature of the work she
8 says she was forced to do at SND-16984. This is from
9 her evidence that she gave on 24th February, and she
10 says -- I am just going to try and summarise this for
11 you:

12 "Every Saturday I picked all the little mats up --
13 and they were actually remnants of carpets -- took them
14 round -- down round the side, the back of the boiler,
15 and beat them, cleaned them, and then carried them all
16 upstairs, put them all back besides the cots and beside
17 the beds, and that was one of the things that I had to
18 do."

19 I think in your statement you say you have no
20 recollection of that.

21 **A. We had no mats.**

22 Q. There were no mats to do this with?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. If we just scroll on further down to the next black
25 sections, please, and that was put to her, that really

1 this didn't happen and she is saying she remembers it
2 like it was yesterday, that you are telling lies about
3 this, that it did happen. Your position is it simply
4 didn't.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Just scroll on further down, please. Keep going. This
7 is where she describes in a bit more detail the issue
8 over the hairbrush:

9 "She didn't brush my hair. She hit me because
10 I couldn't find my elastics to fix my hair and I got hit
11 every morning. To deny, to say that she doesn't
12 remember, she's a liar. She doesn't remember myself and
13 my two sisters? We were there from to , and
14 when I was fostered out, it still sticks in my mind like
15 it was yesterday, being brought back by my foster father
16 in the car and set up on a bench and the money and
17 whatever these people gave me was took off me and never
18 seen it again."

19 That doesn't accord with any memory you have?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Now -- and the Inquiry Panel is also able to read the
22 detail of her statement and her transcript and your
23 statement, but as far as you are concerned, you don't
24 remember, and these incidents did not happen?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. Now her sister HIA8 was in Termonbacca at the same time,
2 . She was to SND-2069, please. She
3 describes the nursery end that she lived in. Just
4 scroll down, please:

5 "In the nursery there was one dormitory that had 24
6 cots."

7 You think that's too many. How many would you say
8 there was, SR3?

9 **A. I would say at the most there'd be about six cots.**

10 Q. Six cots?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. If we scroll on down, please. Were there small beds
13 then for the --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. In that same room?

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. So cots or smaller beds --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- than were in the girls dormitory?

20 **A. We would never have had any more than six tiny babies.**

21 Q. So six cots and how many of the small beds?

22 **A. Well, in the beginning we would have probably had 12 or
23 14 until we started taking the older children.**

24 Q. Yes. So there would have been about 20 between cots and
25 small beds?

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. Now she says there were 11 single beds in the girls
3 room. Would that be roughly --

4 **A. I never classed it as the girls room.**

5 Q. I am just trying to -- we can call it something else,
6 but just to separate it from where the cots and small
7 beds were, this room next to where the cots and small
8 beds were, did -- what name did you have for it?

9 **A. Well, it was all just one bedroom.**

10 Q. Well, were there -- was there then a single room off
11 this bed as well?

12 **A. There was a single room, but there was only about three
13 beds in that room.**

14 Q. She describes how her sister, not HIA7 that we have been
15 just talking about, but her other sister, the middle of
16 the three of them, wet the bed, and she says that she
17 got beaten in the morning by you for wetting the bed,
18 and she got beaten for cleaning it up. She said she was
19 punched on the face and body and she says she was hit by
20 a cherry brown leather strap that you kept at your
21 waist. Was there a strap on your habit next to your
22 rosary beads?

23 **A. There was, but when I was working with the children,
24 I wouldn't have had that on me.**

25 Q. What was the purpose of the strap?

1 **A. Well, in the olden days we wore our rosary beads and we**
2 **had a strap around our waist to hold the rosary beads**
3 **and a crucifix --**

4 Q. And --

5 **A. -- and we didn't wear them when we were working.**

6 Q. She says that as a result of that incident she learned
7 to get down on her hands and knees, get the bed changed,
8 wash the sheets and -- so that no-one would ever find
9 out that, in fact, the girls had wet the bed.

10 **A. I think, as I said before, in the nursery there was**
11 **never an issue about bedwetting or ...**

12 Q. And --

13 **A. And we had our own little laundry in the nursery where**
14 **the sheets were washed and all our washing was done.**

15 Q. She describes then when she gave evidence -- SND-17017,
16 that's SND-17017. She says when you walked down -- you
17 kept this cherry brown leather strap at your waist. It
18 hung down beside your rosary beads.

19 "When she walked it clapped together. The rosary
20 beads clapped against it. You would hear ..."

21 She also says you used your shoe on her. Scroll
22 down, please. Just keep scrolling. You would have hit
23 her across the face, the back of the head, the back of
24 the legs. Scroll, please. It strung more on the bare
25 skin. Just scroll down, but she also says, and she

1 deals with this at -- I will not turn the page up. Just
2 stay where we are at. SND-2070, paragraphs 5 and 6, she
3 talks about a stick like pointer, something like would
4 have been used in the school to point to the blackboard.

5 "It was a long thing, but it was thinner at one end
6 than it was at the other. I am not sure what she used
7 it for except when she was hitting us with it we knew
8 what she was using it for. I don't know what she used
9 it for all day, because she didn't teach anything. Do
10 you know what I mean?"

11 She says:

12 "It looked to us like something you would see the
13 other nuns using in the convent when they were pointing
14 at the background ... That's the type of stick it was
15 ..."

16 Just scroll down, please. You used that as
17 a weapon. You didn't have it all the time, but when you
18 did bring it out, you knew it was out. Do you recall
19 that type of pointer?

20 **A. I never had one.**

21 Q. Was there such a thing in --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- Termonbacca?

24 **A. I never saw one.**

25 Q. Now if we go back to SND-2070, please, and paragraph 6,

1 she describes a particular incident. Just scroll
2 further down for me, please, to the next page, SND-2071.
3 Sorry. If we just -- take me back up a little to the
4 bottom of the page before.

5 So on one occasion she says that she complained to
6 her older sister, who didn't live in Termonbacca, and
7 her older sister is called who was married, about
8 the fact she was getting hit. said she would go
9 down and see about it. HIA8 asked her not to do that
10 but she did. She spoke to the Mother Superior. Then
11 she was brought in and you were brought into the room.

12 Do you remember ever being accused of having hit --
13 never mind you saying you didn't hit a child, but do you
14 remember ever being accused of it?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. You were never accused of it?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. So what she is saying is she was brought along to this
19 meeting where her sister was there with the Mother
20 Superior and she was persuaded she says by you to deny
21 that she -- that you had actually hit her and to say
22 that she was lying, and she was prepared to do that
23 because she was frightened of the consequences if she
24 didn't. She says that you gave her a wailing for
25 telling about having been hit. She says you

1 trapped her in the toilet cubicle, which was small, and
2 you beat her with your strap and you punched her and
3 kicked her and she ended up with a black eye. Do you
4 have any --

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Can I ask you: do you have a view why would these two
7 girls say all of this?

8 **A. I don't know. I don't know, but I certainly didn't hit
9 them.**

10 Q. Now if we look at SND-2072, please, paragraph 11, she
11 describes how at night-time if there was noise in where
12 the babies were sleeping -- presumably if a baby starts
13 to cry, there is a real chance it will wake up the other
14 babies who are crying (sic). Would that be your
15 experience of a group of babies together?

16 **A. Yes, they would wake up the others, yes.**

17 Q. Now what she's saying was there was a need to be very
18 quiet, and if the babies were wakened from their sleep,
19 then they would get into trouble over it. You would
20 have hit them, and also if you heard a baby or I take it
21 a younger child whimpering in their bed, that you would
22 have slapped them for being out of bed and the child got
23 slapped for crying.

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. Do you have any recollection of that?

1 **A. No, no.**

2 Q. If we just look at her transcript at SND-17003, please,
3 what she is saying is that they would have tried very
4 hard to comfort the children. Sometimes they would have
5 needed a nappy changed. They would have sneaked in and
6 changed the nappy to try to avoid the slapping
7 occurring. Do you have any recollection of that?

8 **A. I would never let another child change a baby's nappy.**

9 Q. Well, in the statements of these two girls they describe
10 how they regularly were working with the small children
11 and the babies and including changing nappies.

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. You are saying that never happened?

14 **A. That never happened.**

15 Q. That you would have closed the curtains last thing at
16 night, but they were heavily involved in the putting of
17 the children to bed.

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. She makes various points that I am not going to --
20 because you are saying this just didn't happen. So I am
21 just going to summarise them in passing. She says she
22 got hit more when she interfered to protect her sisters.
23 She wonders whether you picked on them because they were
24 older. She said in her evidence, SND-16996, that she
25 remembers you being described in a -- as Hitler. Do you

1 remember ever hearing them talk of you in that way?

2 **A. Never.**

3 Q. Never. Just in her evidence at SND-16996 through -- if
4 we just scroll down, please -- she describes how -- you
5 will see there:

6 "Our job, me and my two sisters, was to change all
7 the other wee wains' nappies, and change their pyjamas
8 ... and their sheets."

9 You say that never happened?

10 **A. No, no, no. They wouldn't have been able to lift a baby**
11 **anyway.**

12 Q. Well, she would have been to

13 **A. But I wouldn't have taken the risk of allowing**
14 **a child to lift a baby.**

15 Q. And if we just keep scrolling down. Keep going please.
16 She says there were 20 wains around. They -- the
17 younger sisters would have done the sheets.

18 "... I [would have] done the nappies and the pyjamas
19 and then took them all into the bathroom. I had to get
20 down on my hands and knees, lean over the bath and clean
21 out the dirty nappies and then steep them all in cold
22 water ..."

23 Is that what happened with the dirty nappies?

24 **A. Not at all. We had our laundry and the sheets and the**
25 **nappies, pyjamas, whatever, was just done in the**

1 **laundry. We had two washing machines I think and all**
2 **the laundry would have been done down there.**

3 Q. You just for the record for the Panel deal with the
4 various allegations she makes at paragraphs 30 to 40 of
5 your witness statement at SND-4147 through to SND-4148.

6 Now she expressed a very -- and just to give you
7 an opportunity to comment on it, because in her evidence
8 at SND-17020 she expressed a very strong view about her
9 time being cared for by you, and if we can go to that,
10 please. SND-17020.

11 Now she says that you should never have been a nun.
12 You should never have been allowed anywhere near
13 children. You:

14 "... should about been put in a boxing ring with
15 a couple of big men and let her take her anger out on
16 them to see how she liked it when they hit her back.
17 She shouldn't have been anywhere near one wain. She
18 wouldn't know how to look after a wain, telling you that
19 she looked after wains and kept them. She wouldn't know
20 how to look after her own two feet, never mind a wee
21 wain. She had no love in her."

22 So very strong words from HIA8 about her experience
23 with you. I know that you said to me beforehand that
24 you met with your mum on one occasion and she had words
25 for you --

1 A. I met --

2 Q. -- that stuck with you that you wanted to tell the
3 Panel.

4 A. When I came to Termonbacca first at years of age, my
5 mother was a big invalid and she lived down in
6 and she made all her way up to Termonbacca to see me.
7 She was so ill -- excuse me -- that she was bent in two,
8 but she came up to see me. That was the only time I saw
9 my mother from the time I was professed until she died.
10 Excuse me a minute.

11 Q. Just take your time. There's water there if you want to
12 have a ...

13 A. When she was leaving, her last words to me were, "SR3,
14 be good to the children". I never forgot those words,
15 because to me they were my mother's dying words and to
16 this day I never forgot those words. That's what she
17 said to me, "SR3, be good to the children" and I kept
18 that in my mind all my life.

19 Q. Now I want to move to the last of the individuals,
20 HIA352, who is "HIA352". She was in Termonbacca between
21 and . So again you are working in the nursery
22 but you were only there until . She would have been
23 between the ages of and during that period, and then
24 SR 18 I think, who is going to give evidence
25 later, takes over from you for a period. I might have

1 the wrong SR 18

2 She says in her statement, SND-2130, please, in
3 paragraph 3 -- she describes how you used a scrubbing
4 brush, a deck brush, as she described it, whenever she
5 was taken in, being taken to the nursery, put into
6 a bath and scrubbed with a deck brush by you, who was
7 laughing with another member of staff but was then cross
8 with you -- with her, saying, "You dirty wee bitch, look
9 at the state of you". Is that language you would ever
10 have used?

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

12 Q. Now she also described in her evidence at SND-17028
13 at -- she recalled -- just scroll down, please. Scroll
14 down, please. Yes. She recalls being up at the end of
15 the corridor and:

16 "... could hear the resounding smacks on naked skin
17 and my brother screaming as she was hitting him for
18 wetting the bed, and then when we moved -- the nursery
19 was closed down."

20 What she is saying, her younger brother, she recalls
21 hearing him being slapped by you. You presumably don't
22 accept that?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. That was because he had wet the bed that he was being
25 slapped.

1 Now when your statement was put to her -- you dealt
2 with her allegations in your witness statement and at
3 SND-17032 and 17033, please, you -- it's being -- what
4 you have said in your witness statement, your first
5 witness statement, was being read out to her. Just
6 scroll down, please.

7 You talk about how kids were never hit.

8 "They might have been" -- scroll down, please.

9 "They were never abused in any way. They may have been
10 shouted at or deprived of some treat like TV if they
11 were misbehaving, but I do not recall any physical
12 punishment at all."

13 Was there no -- no child was ever -- even corporal
14 punishment?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. Never. So scroll down, please. She says this then:

17 "Yes. That may be her memories all right, but
18 I have different memories of what she was like, and she
19 was quite strict and she did slap us, and she definitely
20 slapped my brother really hard every morning that he wet
21 the bed, and she scrubbed my hand. I had a cut in it.
22 Somebody -- we were -- somebody bit me and it got
23 infected and I wouldn't let anybody near it. It was
24 really sore and she -- she dragged me into the bathroom
25 and got a nail brush and just started scrubbing it and

1 I remember screaming with pain."

2 Just scroll on down, please. Now is that a memory
3 that you recognise?

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. No.

6 Now, SR3, what I want to do now is to ask you,
7 looking back at the time you spent in Termonbacca, you
8 have already indicated the difficulties with staffing
9 you have accepted, but is there anything else about --
10 the Inquiry is interested in systems failures, what went
11 wrong that might have allowed the type of things that
12 the Inquiry is hearing about to have occurred.

13 Are there any systems failures that you recognise
14 now with your experience, looking back, that you think,
15 "Well, maybe we shouldn't have done it like that. We
16 could have done it like this"?

17 **A. Well, with the older children perhaps I definitely agree**
18 **we were under-staffed, but in the nursery there was**
19 **always at least three people there to look after the**
20 **children, at least three, most times four. There were**
21 **two paid staff and two voluntary staff.**

22 Q. And this was a change. As time went on staff were
23 recruited to work alongside you and help you?

24 **A. Yes, yes.**

25 Q. Is it the case they weren't initially there in , but

1 as we get towards this improves?

2 **A. When I went to the nursery first, there was always staff**
3 **in the nursery. There was always at least two in the**
4 **nursery.**

5 Q. And you have positive memories of particular lay staff,
6 volunteers even --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- coming in to help?

9 **A. Oh, yes. Every day.**

10 Q. And who gave of their -- they were employed nurses, one
11 of them, and they came in --

12 **A. They came in and then there was another girl that came**
13 **every day, and then we had another girl. She was**
14 **a hairdresser. She would come and she would do the**
15 **children's hairs, and, you know, there was -- there was**
16 **always enough staff in the nursery.**

17 Q. Is there anything else about your time in Termonbacca
18 that you want to make the Panel aware of? Now is your
19 opportunity. I appreciate it is difficult for anyone
20 coming to give evidence, but is there anything you want
21 to say beyond this -- the material that I have already
22 covered?

23 **A. Well, the one thing I do want to say is my time in the**
24 **nursery was a very happy time. Now I had babies from**
25 **the age of 12 days maybe or two weeks old. I would have**

1 got up every night. As you are all aware, babies had to
2 be feed during the night. I would get up every night
3 and feed those babies myself and make -- change their
4 nappies, put them back to bed, and I did that for --
5 not years -- for years. To me we were a very
6 happy group of, you know, children and adults, and to be
7 very honest I was broken-hearted the day I left
8 Termonbacca.

9 Q. I at this point -- you are aware we have to have a short
10 closed session --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- to deal with a particular matter, but I don't have
13 any more questions in this open session. If you remain
14 where you are, SR3, the Members of the Panel may want to
15 ask you something.

16 Questions from THE PANEL

17 MS DOHERTY: SR3, thank you for your testimony. Can I just
18 go back to the issue of bedwetting, and you were saying
19 there seemed to be more bedwetting in Termonbacca than
20 was your experience later. Do you have any sense of why
21 that might have been?

22 A. I think maybe the reason for that is that there were
23 more children in Termonbacca. I mean, in the other
24 houses where I was they would have been only in groups
25 of maybe 15 to 16 whereas in Termonbacca there was 70

1 **children. So that might account for -- to be the larger**
2 **number of bedwetting. That would be my only ...**

3 Q. Explanation. Okay. Can we just talk about the older
4 boys supervising or having a role in relation to the
5 younger boys, because we have heard about that a lot?
6 Was there even informally like even at dinner time or
7 bath time an expectation that older boys would help out?

8 **A. I would never -- I have never witnessed an older boy**
9 **bathing a younger boy, never.**

10 Q. Or helping out at meal times or ...?

11 **A. Maybe they might have served dinner or, you know ...**

12 Q. But they had no role in overseeing or ...?

13 **A. No, no.**

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 MR LANE: SR3, I am aware that you went and did the NNEB at
16 but did you have any other training while you
17 were working at Termonbacca? Were there in service
18 courses or anything like that?

19 **A. No, no, I didn't.**

20 Q. The staff didn't have retreats that looked at childcare
21 systems or working amendments?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. I know you said that you picked up from SR11 at the
24 beginning what you should be doing, but after that did
25 you ever get policies issued from Hammersmith or

1 wherever telling you of new ideas in childcare or new
2 ways they wanted you to work?

3 **A. No, no.**

4 Q. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you to think back to what you were
6 telling us about your relationship with HIA121, who --
7 again, of course, the name will not be used outside the
8 chamber -- but you have described how when you were
9 I think I am right in saying the Mother Superior in
10 he got in contact with you and you arranged and
11 did spend really a complete day with him in and
12 you said that he didn't mention much about abuse, that
13 he wanted to talk about his worries about Termonbacca.
14 What were the, if I may put it this way, the bad things
15 that he wanted to talk about?

16 **A. He didn't talk about them. He didn't actually talk**
17 **about the bad things. He just wanted to spend the day**
18 **with me and, you know, we talked about things in**
19 **general. He talked about his life in and he**
20 **seemed to have got on very well in , and he**
21 **didn't really dwell on what had happened in Termonbacca,**
22 **but he just said to me -- he said, "If I can spend one**
23 **full day with you and anything that was on my mind**
24 **regarding Termonbacca, I would put behind me", and we**
25 **didn't -- we didn't discuss Termonbacca that much.**

1 Q. Well, would it be fair to suggest to you that when he
2 made this suggestion to you, there must have been
3 something was troubling him? I mean, that's why he
4 presumably approached you and said he had worries about
5 his time in Termonbacca. Now he may not have told you
6 what they were, but when he spoke to you to suggest this
7 meeting, did you get the impression there was something
8 troubling him about his recollections of his time?

9 **A. Well, the impression I got was he wanted to keep in**
10 **touch with me because of his time in Termonbacca. That**
11 **was -- that was the impression I got.**

12 Q. Yes, I can understand that if you had a good and close
13 relationship with him, that that would be the case, but
14 you did say that he told you he had worries about his
15 time in Termonbacca. Is that right?

16 **A. Yes. Well, he -- in another way he dwelt more on his**
17 **own family, the problems he had with his family and how**
18 **he was rejected by his family, and he did say to me at**
19 **one stage he had no idea whether HIA46 was -- that was**
20 **his other brother -- was dead or arrive until one day he**
21 **landed on his doorstep with his two children.**

22 Q. Would it be fair to adduce from that that his concerns
23 about Termonbacca might have been at least to some
24 extent related to why he was in there at all and that
25 his family hadn't kept in touch with him?

1 **A. Well, he more or less told me that his family threw him**
2 **out.**

3 Q. Yes, but that he spent the day with you in the
4 circumstances you have described, and did you get the
5 impression at the end of it that perhaps that had helped
6 to put his mind at rest at whatever it was that was
7 troubling him --

8 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

9 Q. -- without him --

10 **A. He seemed to have gone off, you know, a happy man that**
11 **day.**

12 Q. But he didn't go into detail with you about some at
13 least of the problems?

14 **A. No, no, no.**

15 Q. Thank you. Very well. Well, we'll start again at
16 2 o'clock, if we may, and we will have a closed session
17 to discuss some other matters, but that's all for the
18 moment now, SR3. Like anybody else in your situation,
19 don't talk about your evidence until you come back to us
20 at 2 o'clock.

21 (1.07 pm)

22 (Lunch break)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 (Hearing resumed in closed session - see separate
25 transcript)

1 (In open session)

2 (2.30 pm)

3 WITNESS SR52 (called)

4 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, I am grateful for the
5 time you afforded. The next witness today is SR52 and
6 she has the designation "SR52". I have spoken to her
7 and she does wish to maintain her anonymity as far as is
8 afforded by the Inquiry, Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Very well. Now, sister, I take it you wish
10 to make a religious oath?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 **WITNESS SR52 (sworn)**

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

14 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

15 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, sister. We spoke earlier today
16 and it seems like quite a while ago, but we discussed
17 the fact that you have provided the Inquiry with two
18 witness statements, and if we can -- those can -- I will
19 refer to them in due course, but just for the moment
20 they can be found at SND-4150 through to SND-4157
21 and SND-16393 to SND-16394, but if I could, first of
22 all, put up SND-171207, and this is a document which
23 I found after I had spoken to you this morning, sister,
24 but I have just shown to you and it is taken from the
25 Sisters of Nazareth registers of sisters. If that --

1 no. Sorry. SND-171207. That can't be right.

2 SND-171... -- SND-17207. No. Wrong one. I seem to

3 have got the wrong reference number.

4 SND-17206. If we could just go back a page, please,

5 you will see, sister, I have shown you the unredacted

6 version of this, but it indicates you were first

7 professed in 1963 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and from speaking to you this morning you say you

10 took your final vows in October 1968.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Isn't that right?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You came to Nazareth House in Derry. Sorry, sister. If

15 you can just speak into the microphone, because we have

16 to hear what you say.

17 CHAIRMAN: You can draw it forward if you find that easier.

18 **A. Thank you.**

19 MS SMITH: You first came to Nazareth House in .

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You were still invitiated at that stage. You hadn't

22 taken your final vows. You left there in when you

23 went to Nazareth Lodge in Belfast. Isn't that correct?

24 **A. That is correct.**

25 Q. Can I just ask you some general questions about your

1 time there, and some of this will be covered by your
2 statement in any event?

3 **A. Okay.**

4 Q. You trained as a teacher. Isn't that the position?

5 **A. In**

6 Q. Apart from your teacher training qualifications did you
7 receive any qualifications in childcare?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. What experience had you had of looking after children
10 other than as a teacher?

11 **A. When I was a novice in I would have helped**
12 **with a group of children, and during the summer holidays**
13 **when I was doing my teacher training in**
14 **I went to and helped with a group there for two**
15 **months, but other than that I didn't really have any**
16 **qualifications or training other than the teacher**
17 **training.**

18 Q. Did you have -- subsequently did you ever go on any
19 training courses about childcare?

20 **A. Just short courses really --**

21 Q. And can you --

22 **A. -- but it was more -- more in connection with education**
23 **really and teaching.**

24 Q. Than childcare?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Well, can I ask how you came to be assigned to Nazareth
2 House in Derry?

3 **A. When I finished my training, I was -- I was appointed**
4 **really to go to Nazareth House Primary School as**
5 **a Primary 1 teacher, first of all, and then as**
6 **a Reception Class teacher.**

7 Q. And did you have any discussion with anyone about
8 whether would you like to go there or was there
9 anything --

10 **A. No, I was just appointed and I went.**

11 Q. And you weren't given any choice. Isn't that right,
12 sister?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. Well, you -- this was your first teaching post in Bishop
15 Street?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Can I just confirm that the children that you taught
18 there were not just children who were resident in
19 Nazareth House Children's Home, but they were from the
20 community as well?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You were about at this stage. Is that right?

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

24 Q. At that stage when you arrived, can you describe what
25 Nazareth House was like in ?

1 **A.** Well, it was -- it was a large stone three-bed --
2 three-storey building with the school, the classrooms on
3 the ground floor. There was a basement as well, which
4 was used more for storage and heating system. On the
5 first floor there was the nursery at one end and at the
6 other end the girls who worked either in the nursery or
7 in the laundry or with the residents or went out to
8 work, and then on the top floor there was the
9 dormitories where the children would have slept, and
10 that was the layout when I first went.

11 **Q.** And who was in charge when you first went?

12 **A.** SR9. SR9 was the sister in charge, the principal of the
13 school as well as in charge of the children.

14 **Q.** And apart from SR9 and yourself?

15 **A.** SR59, SR59, SR59, she was also assisting. She was a
16 special needs teacher and also looked after the
17 residential children.

18 **Q.** After the conversation we had this morning please
19 correct me if I have got anything wrong, but what
20 I~understand from you is that all three of you were
21 teachers.

22 **A.** Correct.

23 **Q.** And as well as teaching in the school --

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** -- you looked after the children in the home.

1 A. Yes. We had a dual role.

2 Q. Can I just ask what your role in looking after the
3 children in the home entailed?

4 A. Well, it entailed really that one of us really would
5 have got the children up in the morning, made sure they
6 were dressed and made their beds and brought them down
7 to breakfast, and then the second sister would have
8 taken them into the dining room and served the breakfast
9 and supervised it, and the third sister then would have
10 taken over and got the children -- got their hairs done
11 and got them ready for school and saw them -- some of
12 the children went out to different schools, the
13 secondary schools, and would have stayed then with the
14 primary school children until it was time to bring them
15 to school.

16 Then after school my first duty really was to take
17 the boys, the Termonbacca boys, up to the buses, because
18 at that time the troubles started really shortly after
19 I went to Derry, and I used to take them up as far as
20 Abercorn Road, put them on the bus to go back to
21 Termonbacca. I came back down and then I would have
22 gone to the playground to organise the games and
23 whatever the children were doing at that stage up until
24 5 o'clock, when usually it was SR9 took them to tea
25 then, and then SR59 would have taken over about 6.30

1 time, and we would have gone to prayer and also to
2 an evening meal and come back, and then it was homework
3 time, and the younger children then would have been
4 taken upstairs to get them ready for bed, and the older
5 children then would have -- they always had more
6 homework. So -- and they got watching a little
7 television, and then it was time for them to be brought
8 upstairs to prepare for bed.

9 Q. Can I just confirm there was yourself, SR59 and SR9?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. There were other nuns in the convent. Isn't that
12 correct?

13 A. Yes, but they didn't work directly with the children.

14 Q. SR18, who is going to give evidence after you --

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. -- she said she was there for a short period between
17 and

18 A. She was, yes.

19 Q. She would have helped out with some of those duties. Is
20 that correct?

21 A. Yes. If they were also attached to the school, yes.

22 SR 30 did too and also but they
23 were only there really for about a year at the time or
24 two years.

25 Q. So any teacher who was assigned to teach in the school

1 would have --

2 **A. Would have helped out.**

3 Q. -- helped out. Were there any civilian staff there
4 during the period you were there?

5 **A. Not during the period I was there, no.**

6 Q. And can you say how many children would have been in
7 Nazareth House in those years approximately?

8 **A. Well, I think around about 60, but when we got the
9 family groups in in the '70s, there would have been
10 about 14, 15 in each of the family groups.**

11 Q. I will come on to how things changed over your time
12 there.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. But what age group are we talking about?

15 **A. Well, the youngest really -- when the nursery closed,
16 the youngest would have been really two and a half right
17 up to 19.**

18 Q. Now you have talked about SR59 and SR9 --

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. -- and their names also show in the register, if I can
21 just pull these pages up. In fact, SR59 can be found at
22 SND-17187 and she is there described as "SR59". You
23 will see she was professed in 1954 and came to Derry in

24 So she would have been there a good years
25 before yourself.

1 **A. Before me.**

2 Q. Although her date of birth is blocked out on that,
3 I know from reading it she was years older than you.
4 Is that correct?

5 **A. Oh, she would have been yes, yes.**

6 Q. If we just look briefly at SR9, she is to be found at --
7 sorry. It is SND-17207, and she is "SR9". If we look
8 at that, you will see that she came to Derry in and
9 left in for Hammersmith.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. She was professed in and her date of birth is
12 actually given there and she was considerably older than
13 you. She would have been years older than you --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- when you arrived there.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You have indicated she was the nun who was in charge --

18 **A. She was, yes.**

19 Q. -- of the children and the school at that time. Just in
20 relation to -- I have lost my page. Excuse me. Bear
21 with me. Ah, here it is. Yes.

22 We were just talking about the number of staff that
23 were there when you were there and there were just the
24 nuns in the school who looked after the children in the
25 home, but there was an elderly residents home attached

1 as well. Isn't that correct?

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

3 Q. And --

4 **A. And the older girls would have helped us, you know.**

5 Some of them went out to work and some of them were
6 working within the house, not in the children's section,
7 but in the residents and the laundry and the kitchen and
8 the nursery. So they would have helped in the evening
9 with the children.

10 Q. This was the girls who were living upstairs --

11 **A. Who were -- yes.**

12 Q. -- still living in the home?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Effectively some of them were working outside the
15 community.

16 **A. They were, yes.**

17 Q. In the community -- I beg your pardon -- and some were
18 working with the residents, as you describe them --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- the elderly --

21 **A. And two of them training for nursing, and one worked in**
22 **the library in Rosemount, so -- and one worked in the**
23 **swimming baths. So there were quite a number really who**
24 **would have assisted.**

25 Q. Well, can I ask you, sister, what did you understand the

1 position of Nazareth House to be within the Social
2 Services system?

3 **A. I would say I had very little understanding at that**
4 **stage, because so few of the children had social**
5 **workers, and those who had, I would never have seen**
6 **them, because the senior sister, SR9, would have always**
7 **greeted them and met them and taken the children into --**
8 **you know, into the parlour.**

9 Q. Did you not yourself have any direct contact with those
10 social workers --

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. -- who did visit the home?

13 **A. No, nor did I really know anything about the background**
14 **of the children either.**

15 Q. You talk about this in paragraph 25 of your statement --
16 witness statement. We can look at that in due course,
17 but can I ask you some general questions about the
18 congregation and whether or not -- for example, did it
19 have a policy on discipline of children?

20 **A. I wouldn't say -- I wasn't aware of a written policy**
21 **definitely, but the oral policy would have been the**
22 **sister in charge of the children really was the one who**
23 **would have disciplined the children and would have been**
24 **responsible for the discipline. So if they really --**
25 **I mean, you would correct them over something minor, but**

1 **if there was anything serious, we would have -- I would**
2 **have sent them to SR9.**

3 Q. And that was just an understood --

4 **A. It was an understood thing.**

5 Q. -- position? It wasn't something that was ever written
6 down?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. That you were told, "This is what you must do"?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. What about the practice with bedwetting? If we could
11 just go back to your statement, which starts at
12 SND-4150, if we can go to paragraph 31 of that, which is
13 on SND-4154, you see, paragraph 31, you say that:

14 "Children who wet the bed were called by sisters
15 before they went to bed. They were woken and they went
16 to the toilet to try to stop bedwetting. If beds were
17 wet, the sheets were taken by the sister in the laundry
18 and were washed during the day."

19 Now was there any policy or practice on dealing with
20 the bedwetting other than this?

21 **A. Well, other than the sheets being taken down there was**
22 **a small launderette on the ground floor on the same**
23 **floor as the classrooms were at the end of the corridor**
24 **and the wet sheets were taken there until they were**
25 **brought to the laundry. They were left there, and as**

1 **far as I remember it was the senior girls who brought**
2 **the sheets down that far, but SR9 always made sure they**
3 **went out to the main laundry to be laundered.**

4 Q. Now, sister, you are aware that some of the children
5 have spoken about how they felt humiliated when they wet
6 the bed.

7 A. **Uh-huh.**

8 Q. Is there anything that you can tell us about that?

9 A. **I never recall any of them really being made wear the**
10 **sheets, as some of them have said, or even wash them or**
11 **anything. I never recall seeing any of them do that.**

12 Q. I think probably, given that there was no written policy
13 on discipline that you are aware of, some of the next
14 questions I am about to ask you may be self-evident --

15 A. **Yes.**

16 Q. -- but nonetheless were you aware during your time of
17 the legislation and regulations that governed the
18 conduct of children's homes?

19 A. **I wasn't, no.**

20 Q. For example, were you aware that during your time in the
21 home -- or were you aware during your time in the home
22 that the voluntary homes regulations provided that
23 corporal punishment could only take place in certain
24 prescribed circumstances?

25 A. **No, I wasn't aware of that either.**

1 Q. Was there ever any discussion among the Sisters about,
2 "Well, we have been told that there is this new
3 childcare practice and we should do things differently"
4 or anything like that you recollect?

5 **A. Not while I was in Derry there wasn't.**

6 Q. Is it correct then that at some point later that you did
7 become aware of that?

8 **A. Yes. When I was in Belfast, definitely.**

9 Q. Now you moved to Belfast and you worked in the Sisters
10 of Nazareth Children's Home there and you were there
11 I believe from . Is that correct?

12 **A.**

13 Q. And during that period of time --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- how would you compare what was happening in Belfast
16 with what was -- what you had experienced in Derry?

17 **A. Oh, they were much further ahead really, and all the**
18 **children at that stage had their own individual social**
19 **workers, and we would have had six-monthly reviews, and**
20 **the children would have seen their social workers nearly**
21 **on a monthly, two-monthly basis, and it was a very**
22 **different set-up really, and they had boys and girls**
23 **together, which -- families were all together, which was**
24 **very different from what I had been accustomed to in**
25 **Derry.**

1 Q. One of the other documents -- you recall a lengthy
2 document I showed you this morning --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- which was the Home Office guidance.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. I explained to you that that had been distributed to all
7 of the voluntary homes in Northern Ireland in 1952 by
8 the then Ministry of Home Affairs, and that included
9 advice on a number of issues --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and we went through those briefly.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I am not going to go through them with you. That was
14 the first time you had seen that document when I showed
15 it to you this morning.

16 **A. This morning, yes.**

17 Q. Isn't that correct, sister? What I did ask you was if
18 that had been sent to a voluntary home --

19 **A. Right.**

20 Q. -- who would have seen it?

21 **A. Well, definitely the Superior of the house and the
22 sister in charge of the children.**

23 Q. So in this case SR9 would have been aware of that
24 document or ought to have been?

25 **A. Yes, she should.**

1 Q. A couple of other general questions about life in the
2 home. How often would you have seen the Mother Superior
3 during the course of your duties?

4 A. I would have seen her every day, because she walked
5 round the house every day really at some stage. It
6 would always be different time of the day and ...

7 Q. And would she have discussed any problems that you might
8 have with her?

9 A. Oh, she would, yes. Especially when I was still so
10 young and inexperienced, she would have given a lot of
11 support really.

12 Q. Can I just ask you during your time there how many
13 Superiors were in the home?

14 A. I think I had three during the time I was there. When
15 I first went, I think SR128. She was only there really
16 for about I'd say at the most, and then
17 SR127 came, and she was there for years, and then
18 SR126 came, and she was there until I left really. She
19 was still there when I left.

20 Q. And can I -- do you recall visitations from the Mother
21 Regional or --

22 A. I recall, yes, the Mother Regional, who was Mother
23 Governate, in the early '70s, because the regions
24 weren't set up until 1970 really. She would have come
25 once every three years, and there would have been

1 a visitation as well from Hammersmith not the same year
2 but once every three years as well by either the
3 Superior General or one of her general councillors.

4 Q. And during these visitations did you have -- were you
5 spoken to, first of all, as part of the visitation?

6 A. Oh, yes, yes. Each sister was spoken to.

7 Q. And what was the discussed?

8 A. Well, the welfare of the children really was always
9 discussed. The food was always looked at. Were they
10 getting sufficient nourishment? Their clothing,
11 footwear, the facilities we had for the children, the
12 after-school activities that were organised for them,
13 pocket money. Discipline as well was always looked at.

14 Q. What do you -- do you recall anything in particular
15 about that?

16 A. Well, all I recall was: "What were the children deprived
17 of" -- we usually were asked that -- "if they were being
18 punished for something?" So in Bishop Street they had
19 a great musical tradition really where every child got
20 the opportunity of learning an instrument, a stringed
21 instrument, and they also had a teacher, a music
22 teacher, who taught singing, SND 513 did
23 the stringed instruments. The dancing teacher, SND 297

24 SND 297 Anything really that had been organised, because
25 especially really from onwards these teachers really

1 **came in on a voluntary basis and gave their time freely**
2 **to the children, and as a result really they had two**
3 **bands, a ceilidh band and a Scottish band, and they**
4 **really got the opportunity of going all over Ireland and**
5 **England and they went to Germany and the little Gaelic**
6 **singers went to America.**

7 **Q. So it was a big feature of the home at the time?**

8 **A. It was a big feature.**

9 **Q. Can I just ask about generally in the home to what**
10 **extent were you assisted by volunteers? I mean, you**
11 **have talked about these people coming in to help out**
12 **with the bands and that.**

13 **A. Yes.**

14 **Q. Were there any other volunteers that came to Nazareth**
15 **House to help?**

16 **A. There were a couple -- couple from the Legion of Mary**
17 **who used to come in and the St. Vincent de Paul as well**
18 **used to visit.**

19 **Q. What about older girls? Was there much reliance on them**
20 **to help out?**

21 **A. We depended a lot on the older girls really. A number**
22 **of them would have come back to visit really, especially**
23 **at weekends.**

24 **Q. And what did you depend on them for, sister?**

25 **A. Well, we would have depended on them really to help with**

1 the supervision of bathing, meal time, helping to serve
2 out the meals, doing the ironing sometimes and
3 housework, clean -- cleaning of the classrooms as well,
4 the sweeping, and their own dormitories, and then they
5 had the beds of the younger children.

6 Q. And did they help with homework as well? Was that one
7 of the things that they helped with?

8 A. They would have been there helping to supervise, but it
9 usually was one of the sisters really who would have --
10 they would have heard reading and that kind of thing.
11 They would have, yes.

12 Q. Can I ask -- I mean, during your time there there were
13 changes. Nazareth House in Derry underwent changes.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That would appear to have been in around 19... -- the
16 early or thereabouts.

17 A. That's right. They were ready in , the family group
18 homes.

19 Q. What exactly did the changes -- well, what were they?

20 A. Well, it meant really that the top floor, which were all
21 dormitories at that time, were divided into two -- two
22 sections where the bedroom or the dormitories became two
23 and three bedroom for the children, all very tastefully
24 decorated. The large bathroom and where the wash-hand
25 basins were, they became smaller bathrooms and toilets,

1 **and they had their own sitting room and dining room,**
2 **kitchenette off it. So it was really a self-contained**
3 **unit for about fifteen children.**

4 Q. About fifteen, and at that stage how many groups were
5 there?

6 A. **Three. There were two on that top floor, the second**
7 **floor, and then down, where the nursery closed, that was**
8 **SR9's group. It was another family unit.**

9 Q. And when you say "a family unit", correct me if I am
10 wrong here, but my understanding from you is that there
11 were three -- the three sisters, yourself, SR9 and --

12 A. **And SR59.**

13 Q. -- SR59, who had charge of each one of those groups. Is
14 that correct?

15 A. **That's right.**

16 Q. And you said that life became much easier then.

17 A. **Yes, because you didn't have any more than fifteen**
18 **children at the most and you really got to know them and**
19 **were able to cater for their emotional needs as well.**

20 Q. And you would have been able to spend more time with
21 them as individuals?

22 A. **Much more so.**

23 Q. Well, can -- in your statement again at SND-1456 at
24 paragraphs 37 through to 38 and also in paragraph 8,
25 which we can look at -- sorry. SND-1456, paragraph 8.

1 If we can just scroll up, please. Sorry. I have got
2 the numbers wrong again. SND-4156. That's why. I beg
3 your pardon. Could we look at SND-4156? I have got the
4 numbers round the wrong way. Yes. This is where you
5 are talking about what life was like during your time in
6 Derry in general terms, the social and political
7 conditions that were existing there, and you say:

8 "We saw some of the worst of the troubles. There
9 was daily rioting and shooting. Rioting was almost a
10 past-time for young people in the area",

11 and you were anxious to keep the children away from
12 it.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You were there for trouble around internment, Operation
15 Motorman, Bloody Sunday, among other things. Bishop
16 Street, as you say, was very close to the Bogside and
17 Brandywell areas and many of the children you saw in
18 school had seen dreadful things. You say you tried to
19 protect them from the worst of the problems as best you
20 could with the resources available to you. You do say
21 that you were dependent on the collecting sisters and
22 donations from the diocese and St. Vincent de Paul.

23 You go on to praise the people of Derry who, despite
24 poor circumstances they found themselves in, always gave
25 generously to the Sisters. You say you simply could not

1 have operated the home without their aid.

2 "Even big companies like Desmond's gave us gifts of
3 clothes and pyjamas for the children and this charity
4 allowed us to operate and do what we did for the
5 children."

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. Were you yourself ever aware how -- apart from the
8 collections and generosity of the people of Derry were
9 you aware of how the home was funded, for example?

10 **A. I knew we depended really on the collections really.**
11 **Four of the sisters went out every day during the week,**
12 **during the week, six days a week, and then at the**
13 **weekends two of us, myself and another sister, went out**
14 **on the Saturday, and even on the Sunday there were some**
15 **church collections that -- that was really our main --**
16 **main funding.**

17 Q. Source of income.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. We have heard from some people there was a farm at
20 Termonbacca. Do you recollect getting produce from the
21 farm down to Bishop Street at all?

22 **A. No. All I remember getting really was I think it was**
23 **bread we got and some potatoes, because because they had**
24 **no -- no collecting up in Termonbacca, every month**
25 **£1,000 went to Termonbacca for their upkeep, upkeep of**

1 **the boys, and 1,000 down to Fahan for the babies.**

2 Q. So that was as a result of the collections that were
3 done by the nuns in Nazareth House?

4 **A. Yes. The Saturday and the Sunday collections always**
5 **went towards those two homes.**

6 Q. Now in paragraph 14 of your statement, which if we can
7 scroll back up, it is page SND-4152, you talk there
8 about -- SND-4152. I might have got the
9 paragraph wrong. Sorry. At some point in your
10 statement -- it might be -- you say you weren't aware of
11 any sexual or sexualised behaviour within the home --

12 **A. No, not at any stage.**

13 Q. -- between peers. You say that you did not become aware
14 of that and you weren't trained with how to deal with it
15 in your time in Derry, but at a later stage you did
16 become aware of that.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Isn't that correct?

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

20 Q. That was when you were in Belfast?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say that would have been in about s,
23 thereabouts.

24 **A. No. really I would have been aware of it, because**
25 **in preparation really for a case conference you would**

1 have read the background of the children and why they
2 were in care, and I remember the first time I read the
3 first statement and the word "incest" kept coming up in
4 it, and I literally had to get the dictionary to find
5 out what it was. I'd never heard the word even
6 mentioned before. So I was quite naive.

7 Q. And after that, though, you did go on a child protection
8 course.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And that was in Belfast during your time there?

13 A. In Belfast.

14 Q. And is it fair to say this would have been around the
15 time that the Kincora scandal was breaking as well --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- that these courses were organised?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You have said that you didn't really know before you
20 went to Belfast how the children came to be in the care
21 of the home. Is that right?

22 A. No, I didn't, because most of them were there when
23 I went and they stayed on really until I left.

24 Q. Yes. You do say, though, that you knew that some had
25 come from Fahan. Isn't that right?

1 **A. I knew that a number of them had come from Fahan.**

2 Q. And that -- where else -- what their histories would
3 have been something that only the Mother Superior and
4 SR9 might have known?

5 **A. That's correct.**

6 Q. Well, can I ask you: were you aware -- during your time
7 there did any of the girls in Nazareth House have
8 brothers in Termonbacca?

9 **A. Oh, they did have brothers, yes.**

10 Q. And did they have sisters in Nazareth House?

11 **A. Yes, yes.**

12 Q. And can I ask just, first of all, what was the contact
13 between sisters in the home, between the children?

14 **A. I think other than seeing them in school, in the
15 playground when the boys came down to school, that's the
16 only contact I remember really. I don't -- I don't
17 recall the sisters ever going to Termonbacca or the boys
18 coming just solely to visit their sisters.**

19 Q. There was no real interaction between the two homes.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Is that correct?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. What about the girls who lived in Nazareth House? Would
24 they have interacted, known each other as sisters?

25 **A. Oh, they would have known, yes, definitely.**

1 Q. Can I move on to another topic now, sister, and just ask
2 whether you can assist the Inquiry with what records
3 were kept on each child, first of all?

4 **A. Yes. Well, again it was the senior sister was**
5 **responsible for the keeping -- for all documentation,**
6 **but I only was aware of the general registers being**
7 **kept.**

8 Q. Can I just pause there? We have been showing a number
9 of people who have spoken to us extracts from what were
10 the general registers, which basically say where
11 somebody was born, who they were recommended by, what
12 time they arrived -- what date they arrived in the home,
13 and that's what we're talking about.

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

15 Q. That was the general register?

16 **A. That was for the general register. Usually also there**
17 **was a book with whatever -- whatever -- an inventory of**
18 **whatever a child brought with them when they came. For**
19 **instance, how many -- how many skirts or dresses or how**
20 **many pairs of shoes or coats, and usually it was just**
21 **what they stood up in really, and there was a visitors'**
22 **book that all visitors used to sign as well.**

23 Q. Before I move on to the visitors' book can I just ask
24 you about the clothes that the children had? You said
25 there was this inventory of what they came in.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Did they keep those clothing? Did they keep wearing
3 them or were they provided with uniforms or what's your
4 recollection?

5 **A. Oh, they had uniforms -- they all had uniform for**
6 **school, but -- and they had play clothes, and**
7 **whenever -- I remember whenever they were doing their**
8 **chores or the housework, they wore a kind of an overall,**
9 **an apron over it.**

10 Q. You talk about the visitors' book.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. What -- what kind of visits would have been recorded in
13 that?

14 **A. Definitely when the Home Office visitors came,**
15 **or SND521, they would have signed the visitors' book;**
16 **when a doctor came in; or when the children -- if any of**
17 **the children had visitors, they would usually sign it as**
18 **well.**

19 Q. And by visitors for the children, I take it we are
20 talking about maybe families?

21 **A. Family or social worker, if they had a social worker.**

22 Q. Was there an individual record for each child during
23 your time there?

24 **A. Not during my time there there wasn't.**

25 Q. And the documents that you have spoken about, where

1 would those have been kept?

2 **A. In -- in SR9's office on the ground floor, in her office**
3 **in a locked filing cabinet.**

4 Q. You said that again your experience of Derry contrasted
5 with your experience in Belfast. You said that Belfast
6 had a much better system of record-keeping. Is that
7 correct?

8 **A. Yes, definitely.**

9 Q. And you gave a reason for that when we were speaking
10 earlier, and you think that that was because Belfast had
11 paid staff earlier. Is that right?

12 **A. That's right. They did, yes.**

13 Q. You didn't have any paid staff in Derry --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- during your time there?

16 **A. No. We had a housekeeper and at least two members of**
17 **staff with each of the groups when I went to Belfast.**

18 Q. Can I ask, sister, did any of the children ever complain
19 to you about their treatment?

20 **A. No, not at any stage.**

21 Q. Did they make any complaints to you at all?

22 **A. The only complaints I ever heard was when they were out**
23 **in the playground if they started pulling each other's**
24 **hair, or sometimes if they were cross with each other,**
25 **they'd say something, something awful about their mum**

1 and they wouldn't even know the mother of the other
2 child, but other than that I never heard them really
3 complain.

4 Q. I think you have probably answered this, but if they had
5 complained to you, what would you have done?

6 A. Well, you would have taken the child aside and, you
7 know, explained to them, "That was very hurtful", and
8 they didn't -- you know, they didn't know the mother and
9 they were in no position to make any kind of judgment
10 really.

11 Q. I am wondering -- I know it is sort of a difficult
12 question, because you say they didn't complain about any
13 of their treatment --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- but if somebody did come and say --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- "Look, this happened. This was bad", what would you
18 have done, sister?

19 A. I would have reported it really to the sister in charge
20 or to the Superior. If the complaint was about the SR9,
21 for instance, I would have taken it to the Superior.

22 Q. But you didn't receive any such complaints from any of
23 the children?

24 A. Not to my knowledge I don't remember.

25 Q. Were you aware whether or not the congregation had any

1 system in relation to complaints?

2 **A. I wasn't aware at that stage, no.**

3 Q. Later on were you?

4 **A. Later on I was, yes.**

5 Q. And roughly when would that have been?

6 **A. About .**

7 Q. Now, sister, if I can move on to deal with a few
8 specific matters --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- that have been raised and which you have dealt with
11 now.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. I am going to use names, but again these names will not
14 be used outside this chamber.

15 The first person I am going to mention briefly is
16 a girl called HIA90. First of all, can I ask you do you
17 remember HIA90?

18 **A. I do remember her well.**

19 Q. Now she did give a statement to the Inquiry, although
20 she has not come forward to speak to us, and I'm not
21 going to go into any details about what she said, but
22 I~just want for the sake of completeness to say that you
23 did see that statement --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and that you address the issues that she raised in

1 your own statement --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and they are paragraphs 11 through to 28.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Again I am not -- it is not necessary to go into them,
6 but just so the Inquiry Panel --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- know you have done that.

9 I am going to talk to you now about another girl and
10 that's HIA169. Now HIA169 gave a statement to the
11 Inquiry, which can be found at SND-4268. She was in
12 Nazareth House between February 1961 until August 1976
13 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- which coincides with your time there. We know she
16 spoke to police in 2010, and her statement which I am
17 not going to pull up, can be found at SND-15277.

18 What she said to the police at that time was she
19 described you, SR9 and SR59 as "sadistic". She said
20 that you would come up behind her, whack her with fists
21 or a bunch of keys, and that can be found at SND-15277.

22 She said that you brushed her hair in the morning,
23 and if you were angry, you would have used -- when I say
24 "you", I am talking about the group of the three of you,
25 sister -- if you were angry, you would have used a fine

1 comb, which you pushed into her head, leaving her scalp
2 bleeding.

3 In relation to you specifically she makes two
4 specific allegations. She said that you hit her once
5 with a steel ruler, and she said that you and SR59 held
6 her down when SR9 pulled cotton wool out of a bandaged
7 leg where she had cut her leg.

8 The police actually interviewed you about these
9 allegations.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. Isn't that correct? That was on 24th May 2011. That
12 can be found at SND-15296. Whenever you were
13 interviewed by the police -- and I am just going to
14 summarise -- and please correct me --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- if I have got any of this incorrect -- but you said
17 that you didn't actually recall HIA169 until you had
18 been told by the police that she was making these
19 allegations and you looked up the records --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and then you recollected that you had her sister
22 ^{SND 179} in your group.

23 **A. That's right.**

24 Q. You denied assaulting her either with fists or keys and
25 you said you never carried keys.

1 **A. I only ever carried a Yale key, which was the key to my**
2 **own classroom.**

3 Q. You said you never used a fine comb on anyone.

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. You did say that the older girls did use fine toothcombs
6 --

7 **A. That's correct.**

8 Q. -- but you never remembered seeing a child's head
9 bleeding. Isn't that correct?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. You said that the rulers that were used in the school
12 were not -- were wooden, were not steel.

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. You denied the allegation she made about holding her
15 down. You said, in fact, at no stage would all three of
16 you have been on duty together.

17 **A. That's correct. We wouldn't.**

18 Q. You said -- in the course of your interview with the
19 police you said that you held SR9 in high regard and you
20 said that SR59 was the kindest person you ever met.

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. Now in -- that's what she said to the police and that
23 was your response to what she told the police.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. In her Inquiry statement which is here at page SND-2...

1 -- SND-4270 at paragraph 11 what she says is that she
2 suffered physical abuse at the hands of yourself, SR9
3 and SR59. She goes on in her statement to recount
4 incidents involving SR59 and SR9. At paragraph 19,
5 which is SND-4273, if we can just scroll down to that,
6 please, this is the particular incident where she
7 alleges that you assaulted her. I will just deal with
8 that. She said -- paragraph 19 there she said that
9 she -- sorry. Could you just stop?

10 "I became very overwhelmed by everything that was
11 happening to me. When I was about 13 years old, I cut
12 myself for the first time in an attempt to relieve my
13 emotional pain."

14 She describes how she cut it. She said she doesn't
15 remember how she ended up there, but she was taken
16 downstairs to a classroom:

17 "... where SR9 wiped the blood and then bandaged my
18 leg with cotton wool and bandages. I did not receive
19 any medical attention and my dressings were not changed
20 for three or four days. When the bandages were removed,
21 the cotton wool was embedded in the wounds, which were
22 closing over and infected. SR59 and SR52 held me down
23 while SR9 pulled the cotton wool out of the wounds. It
24 was agony. I was screaming with the pain. I was not
25 taken to hospital and I received no medical treatment,

1 because the nuns would not have wanted questions to be
2 asked. It took the wounds a long time to heal and
3 I still have scars on my legs today -- on my leg today."

4 Excuse me. Do you remember -- do you remember --
5 you also talk -- sorry -- just to go back to a small
6 point that we discussed earlier as well, you talked in
7 your police statement about remembering a child who had
8 taken some tablets.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. One of the things HIA169 talks about is that she, in
11 fact, took an overdose while she was at secondary
12 school. I was asking you if that was the same child you
13 were talking about.

14 **A. No. It was and she was only at the time.**
15 **It was on a Sunday morning and she thought they were**
16 **sweets. They were the tablets of one of the older girls**
17 **who had epilepsy really. So she had to be brought to**
18 **the hospital to have the stomach pumped.**

19 Q. That was the only --

20 **A. It definitely wasn't HIA169. It was**

21 Q. So you weren't aware at any stage --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- of HIA169 having taken an overdose?

24 **A. Never, no.**

25 Q. The other thing that I asked you about was one of the

1 things she said, that as a result of this she had to see
2 a counsellor in school, a SND472. I asked you did you
3 ever meet SND472?

4 **A. No, no, because she was in SR59's group. So it would**
5 **have been SR59 would have seen.**

6 Q. Yes.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. I am just going to call that document up. If we could
9 just look at SND-4390, please. This is where SND472 was
10 asked by police and she has made a note of what the
11 police asked her about HIA169 and what contact she had
12 with HIA169.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. She said:

15 "She did tell me she was very unhappy in Nazareth
16 House but did not disclose any abuse. I visited the
17 Nazareth House to talk to the nuns about HIA169 and to
18 ascertain the source of her unhappiness. The nun with
19 whom I spoke said she could not understand how HIA169
20 could be unhappy as she had a lovely bedroom, which she
21 then showed me."

22 She then went on to say to the police they could
23 contact her if they wished. So that nun was not you.
24 Isn't that correct?

25 **A. No, definitely not me.**

1 Q. You believe it would have been SR59, because HIA169 was
2 in SR59's group?

3 **A. Was in her -- yes, ^{SND 179} was in my group, her sister,**
4 **but again regarding the treatment of the wound in the**
5 **leg, I never even saw. All I knew was she was wearing**
6 **a bandage, and it was ^{SND 179} her sister, told me about**
7 **her -- she told me about a fall on the stairs but not**
8 **self-harming.**

9 Q. No. I think HIA169 would entirely accept that's what
10 she told the nuns was she had fallen. She didn't admit
11 to self-harming at that stage.

12 In your statement again at SND-4155 you address
13 HIA169's allegations --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- at paragraphs 29 through to 33. If we can just go
16 back to the previous page, you say there that she
17 alleges that you hit her with your fist and also with
18 a bunch of keys, and you said you had never struck any
19 child with your fist. You didn't carry a bunch of keys
20 while you were in Bishop Street and completely deny the
21 allegation. You talk there in paragraph 30 about the
22 rulers in the school were all wooden.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You didn't teach her, nor was she in any family group
25 you were in charge of. You deny that allegation.

1 Just for the sake of completeness, she gave evidence
2 to the Inquiry, and I am not going to pull up her
3 transcript, but she accepted that the girls were
4 punished by removal of privileges, that that was indeed
5 a punishment --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- that was inflicted on the children.

8 She described the steel ruler. She described it as
9 a special steel ruler with a dent in it. Do you have
10 any recollection of such a ruler?

11 **A. No. I only recall the wooden rulers in school really.**

12 Q. The other thing that she did say was -- if we can just
13 move down through your statement, please, over the page,
14 you say that -- again you say the self-abuse was
15 completely new to you and you are sure she received
16 medical treatment, but couldn't say anything about
17 cotton wool dressing, because you weren't involved in
18 the treatment.

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. You deny holding her down and you can't comment. You do
21 say there that:

22 SND 477 attended every Wednesday and I believe
23 any child who was ill or needed any care would have been
24 seen by him. I am sure he would have treated HIA169 for
25 injuries she sustained, and if he was concerned, I am

1 sure he would have made some note or comment about those
2 injuries. I am sure staff at the school would have
3 noted serious injuries and made inquiries about them."

4 Now again I put what you had said in your statement
5 to HIA169 when she was giving evidence --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and her response to that was if a doctor had visited
8 every week, then she would have been sent to hospital
9 because of this injury, but you are quite clear that
10 there was a doctor attended every week?

11 **A. SND 477 came in every Wednesday.**

12 Q. Just in response -- in respect of HIA105 --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- again I am not going to deal with this in any great
15 detail, sister, but she -- you have responded to what
16 HIA105 said in your statement not because of a statement
17 that you saw from her that she gave to the Inquiry but
18 from a statement that she gave to the police. Isn't
19 that correct?

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

21 Q. In the statement to the police she told them that she
22 was abused by older girls digging a fine steel comb into
23 her hair when they were washed and she said it was one
24 of the nuns who supervised hair washing.

25 You were interviewed by the police about that

1 allegation as well, and this -- what you say in your
2 interview can be found at -- I am not going to pull it
3 up -- but it is SND-15452 through to SND-15454. You
4 said that the hair washing was done on a Saturday when
5 you were out collecting.

6 **A. Yes, Saturday afternoon.**

7 Q. It was done by the older girls.

8 **A. It was, yes.**

9 Q. It would have been supervised by a nun.

10 **A. Yes, either SR59 or SR9.**

11 Q. But you yourself wouldn't have been there.

12 **A. I would not have been involved.**

13 Q. You also address that issue and other incidents that she
14 makes complaints about about SR9 and SR59 in your
15 statement here at paragraphs 34 to 36, and again you say
16 -- you talk about the fine toothcomb being used for lice
17 infestations. You say bath nights were usually on
18 Tuesdays and Fridays. The children's hair was washed on
19 Saturday afternoon when you were out collecting and you
20 weren't involved in that routine. You completely deny
21 the allegations of physical abuse and cruelty. You
22 never witnessed either of the two sisters, that would be
23 SR9 and SR59, inflict harm on any child.

24 "I do not accept that a child was ever made to eat
25 food that had already been eaten after they had been

1 sick. The food was the best we could provide and there
2 was no choice available. We had our meal after the
3 children but ate the same meal cooked for them. Our
4 dinner would be plated up and kept warm while we
5 supervised the children's meal."

6 Now this was in response to an allegation that you
7 were better fed than the children.

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. But you don't accept that, sister?

10 **A. No, because we got the same food really.**

11 Q. You wouldn't have eaten at the same time, though. Is
12 that correct?

13 **A. No, no, and they wouldn't have seen what the sisters
14 were getting, because we were in the sisters' refectory
15 and they were in their dining room. They weren't
16 allowed in the kitchen.**

17 Q. Just a couple of other matters that you address in your
18 statement. You do say that SR9 was responsible for
19 discipline in the home and -- but you describe her as
20 "strict but fair".

21 **A. Yes, she was very fair, but she was firm with the girls,
22 but having so many children, you can understand that you
23 had to have a certain amount of discipline to even keep
24 them from -- a certain routine, I should say, to -- you
25 couldn't have them all getting up at a different time or**

1 going, you know, to meals at different times, and
2 I suppose that's what made it so institutionalised
3 really.

4 Q. There was a regimented routine to it?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did that change with --

7 A. Oh, it changed very much when they went into smaller
8 units.

9 Q. One of the things that I wanted to address, we have
10 heard again from HIA105 I think it was and from someone
11 else about talk of an intruder in the home, and you
12 actually address this at paragraph 22 of your statement.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If we could go back up to paragraph 22, please, you do
15 recollect an incident with an intruder in the home and
16 there was fear of a prowler in the dormitory at night.

17 "I recall a nursing sister who worked with the
18 elderly residents was attacked and an intruder tried to
19 pull her outside. She raised the alarm. Nothing
20 serious happened."

21 That wasn't you.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Although there was rumours of you having been subject to
24 rape, that's just simply not true?

25 A. No, it wasn't me.

1 Q. But because of those rumours there was an alarm bell
2 fitted to the doors leading to the stairways, and on one
3 occasion three sisters you say stayed up and saw a man
4 climbing a drainpipe. The chaplain -- do you remember
5 who the chaplain was, sister?

6 A. The chaplain was at the time.

7 Q. He and an off-duty policeman chased and caught the man.

8 A. Well, that actually wasn't -- that's not completely
9 correct. The two sisters, SR59 and SR9, actually took
10 him downstairs while I rang an off-duty policeman and
11 his son, who had been chaplain, , and they
12 came in and interviewed the man and brought him home to
13 his home -- they knew exactly where he lived -- brought
14 him to the mother, and he kept begging them not to bring
15 him home, because it would kill his mother if she was
16 told where he had been, and -- but because it was a
17 no-go area in Derry at the time, he wasn't arrested.

18 Q. The police didn't come out?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were the police actually contacted?

21 A. The police were contacted but --

22 Q. But they wouldn't come out?

23 A. -- didn't come out.

24 Q. You say again the children were never locked in the
25 units. Again that is in relation to an allegation that

1 was made by HIA105.

2 Can I just move on to paragraphs 39 and 40 of your
3 statement, sister? Just pause there. You say:

4 "When you consider all the information available now
5 on learning difficulties, behavioural problems and the
6 effects of family trauma, I wish more had been known
7 then. In some ways we were better off, as the children
8 were more naive and childlike than many of our young
9 people today. I do not doubt that some of the children
10 with us had behavioural problems which are more readily
11 noted and treated today. I am sure many were
12 traumatised by the events in the streets around them."

13 You say:

14 "The sisters did all they could with the knowledge
15 and facilities available to them at the time."

16 Now hindsight is a wonderful thing, sister.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. But looking back, would you say that you were
19 ill-prepared by the congregation for the dual role that
20 you were expected to carry out?

21 **A. Very ill-prepared.**

22 Q. I know you can't speak for either SR59 or SR9 --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- but can one assume they would have been provided with
25 the same training as yourself --

1 **A. I imagine so, yes.**

2 Q. -- as teachers? Perhaps even -- you may have had a more
3 progressive training than them, given you were so much
4 younger.

5 **A. Correct. That's possible really.**

6 Q. Did you ever have regular meetings about the children
7 with the other two nuns who were involved in the
8 childcare?

9 **A. I wouldn't say regular, but we would have. We would**
10 **have met at least once a month and talked about, you**
11 **know -- but it really would have been about children who**
12 **were presenting challenging behaviour or, you know,**
13 **difficulties of some sort rather than the children in**
14 **general.**

15 Q. I am not -- I believe, sister, that you were here this
16 morning when SR3 was giving her evidence --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and Mr Aiken referred her to a comment of SND521, who
19 was the Home Office Inspector.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You actually remember SND521, do you?

22 **A. I remember her well. She did an annual visit and would**
23 **have usually had a meal with the children, sat in the**
24 **dining room and had a meal with them, and -- but never**
25 **any negative comments when she was leaving. That's what**

1 I can't -- I can't understand really, seeing that, and
2 none of that feedback came back to me anyway. Whether
3 it did now to the other sisters I don't know, but I'm
4 sure I would have heard about it if it had.

5 Q. And again looking back, do you recognise that atmosphere
6 that she described in that minute of the home that you
7 were working in?

8 A. To a certain extent yes, in the '60s, and it would have
9 been, you know, where the children were all together
10 really, and there wouldn't have been -- you wouldn't
11 have been able to give them individual attention or meet
12 all their needs, but in a way it was a pity that that
13 wasn't brought to our attention, at least to my
14 attention. I would have felt I had to do something
15 about it.

16 Q. There is one other matter, sister. You talk in your
17 statement again about having a meeting at which you
18 attended, and I think you explained that the reason you
19 came to be there was that the nun who was supposed to
20 attend, , had taken ill the night before
21 it --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and she asked you to go as her representative.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. That -- your purpose in being there was to hear what the

1 cardinal had to say and what former residents had to say
2 at that meeting.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You made a comment about the only residents who turned
5 up. There were other orders there. Isn't that correct?

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

7 Q. Representatives of other orders.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Good Shepherd, St. Louis nuns --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- and yourself obviously.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. There were only certain children who turned up or --
14 sorry -- ex-residents turned up --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- at that meeting and they were all people who had been
17 in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth.

18 **A. Either in Belfast, Termonbacca or Bishop Street.**

19 Q. You heard stories from two girls who spoke at that
20 meeting which you say came as a shock to you.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. One girl claimed that she had been raped in the nursery
23 in Nazareth House.

24 **A. As a baby, yes.**

25 Q. And you heard some of the boys from Termonbacca speak

1 about their experiences, and you spontaneously
2 apologised on behalf of all the sisters really who had
3 worked with them and on behalf of the congregation.

4 **A. I said I was very sorry if they had had those bad**
5 **experiences.**

6 Q. Certainly can I ask you, again looking back, and hearing
7 what you had heard at that meeting and what you are
8 aware of now --

9 **A. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. -- do you accept that it is possible that there was
11 physical abuse by members of the congregation?

12 **A. Yes, I definitely do, but I think it really probably was**
13 **prior to my time, you know, in the '40s, '50s and maybe**
14 **early '60s as well.**

15 Q. But certainly you didn't witness any?

16 **A. I never witnessed it myself.**

17 Q. Sister, I think that's as much as I want to cover with
18 you. The Panel --

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 Q. -- Members may have some questions for you, but can
21 I~just ask at this stage, before they ask you anything
22 specific, is there anything you feel we haven't covered
23 or is there anything you wish to say to the Inquiry at
24 this point?

25 **A. No, I think you have covered most of it really.**

1 The only thing that I do recall when I was doing the
2 Advanced Certificate in Nursery Education in Belfast,
3 I remember the tutor suggested that it would be good to
4 visit three homes, because we would see where the
5 children were coming from and the difficulties they had
6 adjusting to school life.

7 We were brought, first of all, to Fleming Fulton
8 School really where there were a number of children who
9 were resident there, and they had every facility under
10 the sun really. It was a beautiful setting.

11 The second one we went on to I can't recall the name
12 of it but it was a children's home on the Antrim Road,
13 and when we went, we were taken to the room where the
14 children were, and it was a Yale lock, a high Yale lock
15 on the door. I always remember the 28 children in the
16 room and they were fighting and screaming and pushing
17 each other over, and on the high shelves all round the
18 room were all these beautiful, soft cuddly toys, but the
19 children hadn't any of them.

20 The tutor said to us, "Now I'll bring you to a third
21 children's home, what it should be like", and, I mean,
22 I had never visited before, but it was Nazareth Lodge,
23 which is Bethlehem's side of it. They had children
24 I think only up to the age of 10 at that stage. When we
25 went in, there were three or four children in the

1 kitchen having a drink. They had only arrived in from
2 school, and there were four others in the sitting room
3 area all down stretched out on their tummies playing
4 Ludo and Snakes & Ladders. There were two other
5 children over near the window holding a radio, trying to
6 listen to some programme on the radio.

7 I remember the tutor saying, "Now that's the kind of
8 children's home it should be, home from home to home for
9 them", and I remember thinking, "Well, what a contrast
10 between those children" -- all seemed really happy --
11 "and the others who were all together and had quite
12 a number of staff in with them", but they weren't --
13 they weren't engaging the children. They were only
14 separating them when they were pushing each other over.

15 Q. Sister, can I just ask you when that was? Do you recall
16 what year it was?

17 A. That would have been in

18 Q. Thank you very much, sister. If you just stay there,
19 please.

20 Questions from THE PANEL

21 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, sister. Can I just talk
22 about that last experience about Nazareth Lodge?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. If you compare that experience to what Nazareth House
25 was like in Bishop Street --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- do you feel there was any of that achieved, that
3 sense of homeliness and ...?

4 **A. Well, it was only just beginning -- it was only just**
5 **beginning to become like that in Derry whereas it was**
6 **taken for granted because they had staff, and it was all**
7 **very well set out, and they were in proper small family**
8 **groups really, and I think that -- that's what made the**
9 **difference from having a small family group from a large**
10 **number of children together.**

11 Q. Uh-huh. I appreciate what you mean about the sense of
12 having to have a routine. If you have got that many
13 children and that few staff, there is some routine
14 needed and some discipline. On that basis how was
15 discipline exercised with the children, if you had that
16 many children?

17 **A. It was withdrawal of privileges really. They had pocket**
18 **money withdrawn. They had -- they weren't allowed to go**
19 **to their dancing class or a music session, or they**
20 **weren't allowed their favourite television programme,**
21 **and sometimes it even meant being sent to bed with the**
22 **younger children.**

23 Q. And where you accept that there was physical abuse with
24 the -- through the nuns and you apologised for that --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- that wasn't anything you ever saw?

2 **A. I never actually witnessed it myself.**

3 Q. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, sister.

4 MR LANE: You mentioned that Belfast was developing things
5 which hadn't been developed in Derry. Do you know why
6 there was a working at a different pace?

7 **A. Because there was funding in Belfast. We got so much**
8 **per child for each of the children in Belfast and every**
9 **one of them had their own individual social workers.**
10 **So, unlike Derry, where they would have been -- they**
11 **would have been admitted privately really, we did -- we**
12 **did have the funding in Belfast.**

13 Q. And there were no approaches made to the Western Board
14 at that time then to get funding?

15 **A. Well, now if there were, I wasn't aware of it really.**

16 Q. Okay. Thank you.

17 **A. Thank you.**

18 CHAIRMAN: If I could just follow up that last point,
19 sister, does that mean that when you arrived to work in
20 Belfast, all the children in the home had been placed in
21 care and therefore there was funding?

22 **A. Yes, and there would have been a much shorter stay.**
23 **Families would have been coming in and social workers**
24 **would have worked with them to get them back really to**
25 **their parents really or foster -- foster homes whereas**

1 in Derry they were more long stay. They came in from
2 the nursery, say, at 3, 4, maybe even younger, and they
3 stayed with you until their education was complete
4 really at 18.

5 Q. So in the time that you were in Derry the situation that
6 you were faced with and your colleagues and the other
7 sisters had a much higher proportion of voluntary
8 placements --

9 A. Oh, yes.

10 Q. -- and therefore the Order had to find the funds
11 somewhere --

12 A. Uh-huh. Exactly.

13 Q. -- to look after them, but are you aware that after your
14 time in Derry the emphasis changed --

15 A. Oh, it changed.

16 Q. -- completely to admitting children who were in care, as
17 in Belfast?

18 A. Yes, but it would have taken a few years. We'd have
19 been a few years after Belfast. Belfast units and
20 groups would have been well set up and -- in the late
21 '60s.

22 Q. Which would mean that the initiative to start the change
23 must have happened earlier and significantly earlier
24 than it did in Derry.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. It is the case --

2 **A. Derry was -- sorry -- Derry was a much poorer area as**
3 **well.**

4 Q. Well, I was about to come to that perhaps a slightly
5 different way, because I think our understanding at the
6 moment, or certainly mine, is to a very large extent
7 each home was autonomous --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- in the sense they had to raise their own money.

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

11 Q. So it may have been the same Order. You have may have
12 shared ideas --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- but you had to do the best you could with what you
15 had available would have been the position, and, as you
16 have said, Derry was not as prosperous.

17 **A. As Belfast, because a lot of people were unemployed, and**
18 **I remember even in the school it was always the fathers**
19 **who brought the children and came when there was**
20 **a medical, because the mothers were all in the factories**
21 **working in the factories.**

22 Q. Men were unemployed.

23 **A. They walked the dogs.**

24 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 Q. We are very grateful to you for coming, SR52 --

2 **A. Thank you.**

3 Q. -- and being so forthcoming.

4 MS SMITH: I have some bad news, sister, which I neglected
5 to tell you this morning, which is that, given you were
6 in Belfast, we may need to call you back at a later
7 date, but thank you very much for today. Thank you.

8 (Witness withdrew)

9 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next and final witness I am ready
10 to deal with, assuming that she is -- and it looks very
11 much as though she is -- she is ready to come forward.
12 This is "SR18". This is SR18.

13 CHAIRMAN: I just wonder whether we should give our
14 long-suffering stenographer -- no. She is saying she is
15 happy to carry on. Very well.

16 MS SMITH: I will try to get finished as quickly as I can.

17 WITNESS SR18 (called)

18 MS SMITH: Now, sister, the Chairman is going to ask you
19 about taking the oath --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and then we will be ready to start.

22 CHAIRMAN: Sister, I assume you wish to take a religious
23 oath. Is that correct?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 WITNESS SR18 (sworn)

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

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

3 MS SMITH: Now, sister, again we are using names here, but
4 they will not be used outside this chamber. I take it
5 that you wish to maintain your anonymity as well as the
6 other sisters have done?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You are now known by your birth name, which is SR18, but
9 you were SR18 during the time that you were in Derry.
10 Isn't that right?

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

12 Q. If we can just look -- you have two register entries,
13 one in , which can be found at SND-17188. We had
14 difficulty finding one for SR52, but we found two for
15 you. SND-17188, please. You see here we have given you
16 the designation "SR18". You were received in the Order
17 in . Your first vows were and your final vows
18 would have been after that. You went to Derry on
19 and then you left for Belfast on

20 .

21 If we could look then at SND-17190, and again this
22 is another entry referring to you, and it says that you
23 came to Derry on . You left for
24 on

25

1 in in as a very young girl --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- when you joined the Order. You were collecting, and
4 at that time you were studying for your 'O' levels.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You then went to where you did your 'A' levels
7 --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- or you were studying for your 'A' levels at that
10 time. You were there from January to . Then you
11 did your teacher training in --

12 **A. That is correct.**

13 Q. -- and qualified in .

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. So you came to Derry -- that was your first teaching
16 post.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Can I just ask how that assignment came about?

19 **A. Just as the other sister said, you just get a letter to**
20 **say you're being appointed to -- I was appointed to**
21 **Derry to teach.**

22 Q. Sorry, sister. You are very softly spoken. If I could
23 ask you just to pull the microphone towards you, if that
24 helps.

25 **A. I will move forward.**

1 **You just get appointed to teach in Derry, and when**
2 **I went to Derry, then I was helping with the children,**
3 **because the other three sisters were SR9, SR59 and SR52.**

4 Q. You described to me what exactly you had to do when you
5 were there. You were a teacher obviously in the school
6 --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and you were teaching I think was it ?

9 **A. , yes.**

10 Q. What was your role in the home as such?

11 **A. In the morning my role was to really -- the sister who**
12 **was doing the breakfast would go to her breakfast and**
13 **I just supervised the end of breakfast, saw the children**
14 **back to their units to get ready for school, and I just**
15 **had to make sure the dining room was tidy.**

16 Q. You say that there were two girls who you remember
17 particularly helping out in the mornings.

18 **A. Yes. HIA169 was in charge of sweeping the floor and**
19 **HIA105 was in charge of mopping the bathroom.**

20 Q. Now at that time -- we have heard from SR52 and you have
21 been present while she gave her evidence, so maybe I can
22 condense some of what you will have to say.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. SR9 was in charge --

25 **A. That's correct.**

1 Q. -- of both the school and the children at that time.

2 There were about 16 to 18 nuns in the nursery and there
3 were about --

4 **A. In the convent.**

5 Q. In the convent as a whole. I beg your pardon. There
6 were two sets of four nuns -- two sets, four nuns, who
7 went out collecting on a daily basis.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Then there were two additional nuns who collected at the
10 weekends.

11 **A. Yes. I followed SR52. I was there with her for a while
12 and then when she went away, I was -- I am getting mixed
13 up myself.**

14 Q. After school then what was --

15 **A. After school then it was my duty to supervise in the
16 playground until teatime, after school to teatime.**

17 Q. You also I believe helped out twice a week supervising
18 the bathing of the girls?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now in 19... -- I'm going to have to keep jumping back
21 between and when you came back in , but when you
22 arrived in were there any civilian staff there?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. And in 1977 how did that differ?

25 **A. When I in , in Derry the -- the groups were**

1 just, as SR52 said, being set up. They didn't have the
2 bathrooms, the dining rooms, but then when I came back
3 in , it was all set up as three separate units, and
4 the unit I had was four bedrooms and the single -- four
5 three-bedded bedroom and a single room, which was --

6 Q. So twelve children --

7 A. -- twelve children.

8 Q. -- you were looking after.

9 A. They had their own bathrooms and dining rooms and
10 kitchens. It was really a flat.

11 Q. And were there employees?

12 A. No, not at that time. So when I went there, I got
13 a lady to work from 4 o'clock in the afternoon to
14 9 o'clock. So she saw the children back from school and
15 did their homeworks and got their tea and got the young
16 ones ready for bed, and then I would have been there to
17 put the older ones to bed when she left after 9.00.

18 Q. By the time you left in what was the position with
19 regard to employed staff in the home?

20 A. Yes. When I left then in it was set up as needs
21 for the children. They had social workers. They had
22 housemothers who were qualified social workers and the
23 quota of staff for the children.

24 Q. So in that period between and there were major
25 changes --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- with regard to the childcare facilities, if I can put
3 it that way --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in terms of staffing? Just going back to , SR9
6 was in charge then.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. In was she still there?

9 **A. No. She had left and SR59 was in charge.**

10 Q. That's SR59?

11 **A. SR59.**

12 Q. You say she was in charge. She became principal of the
13 school as well as in charge of the childcare. She
14 effectively took over from SR9?

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

16 Q. Some of the questions I have asked SR52 just I am sure
17 you will agree with a lot of what she has -- evidence
18 she has given, but just some people's memories can be
19 different.

20 Apart from the teacher training that you received
21 did you ever receive any qualifications in childcare?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. And did your teacher training involve any childcare
24 elements?

25 **A. Yes. A big part of it would have been child development**

1 **and anything to do with young children, because it was**
2 **-- I was trained for primary teaching.**

3 Q. What about from onwards? Did you receive any
4 training yourself in childcare?

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. What about the staff who were there and who were
7 growing?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. What about --

10 **A. They would have gone to courses and training as well.**

11 Q. Did 19... -- in either period did you ever receive any
12 regular updates from, say, Hammersmith saying, "There's
13 been this development in childcare and this is how we
14 should be doing things from now on"? Was there ever any
15 sort of guidance like that from the congregation?

16 **A. Maybe it came to the Superior or the sister in charge,**
17 **but I didn't -- I wasn't aware.**

18 Q. Can you say -- certainly let's just deal, first of all,
19 with . Did the congregation have any policy that
20 you were aware of on discipline of children and --

21 **A. No. I never saw any.**

22 Q. You never saw any written policy?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. SR52 has talked about sort of an oral understanding.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Again would you agree with her on that?

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

3 Q. What about bedwetting? Was there any policy about how
4 to deal with those children who wet the bed?

5 **A. No, not that I know of.**

6 Q. In would things have changed in any way? Would
7 there have been any greater discussion among the sisters
8 about how to treat children or ...?

9 **A. Oh, yes. We would have. SR59 was the person in charge.**
10 **So, I mean, if we had difficulty with children, we would**
11 **discuss it. I would discuss any children in my unit**
12 **with SR59 if there were any difficulties, but at that**
13 **time then there were social workers involved, which**
14 **there weren't in the earlier time, .**

15 Q. And how did the social workers' involvement change
16 things for you as a person looking after the children in
17 the home?

18 **A. Well, I mean, when social workers were involved, I mean,**
19 **I knew the background of the children and we knew what**
20 **care -- what their needs were and how we could meet**
21 **those needs.**

22 Q. So there was much greater discussion of the individual
23 child as a result?

24 **A. Oh, yes. There were six-monthly reviews. So we**
25 **prepared our report and they prepared their reports and**

1 **we would have the formal meetings every six months.**

2 Q. Prior to that in did those meetings take place?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. Probably again I know what your answer is going to be,
5 but were you aware of the legislation or the regulations
6 governing the conduct of children's homes in ?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. We looked again at this Home Office guidance. At least
9 -- sorry -- you didn't actually see it, because I left
10 it outside, but you weren't aware of its existence?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. And is it fair to say that while you were kept
13 up-to-date with the changes in education --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- you weren't given the same sort of information with
16 regard to the changes in childcare?

17 **A. No.**

18 Q. SR52 has said you would have seen Mother Superior every
19 day when you were there.

20 **A. Yes, because we are part of the convent, yes.**

21 Q. She's spoken about the visitations from the
22 congregation. Were you spoken to as part of those
23 visitations?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Were there any real instructions given to you about --

1 **A. Not really. It was -- I suppose the visitation was**
2 **wondering how we were, mostly to do with ourselves, with**
3 **our spiritual life and our work with the children. So**
4 **we'd discussions about that.**

5 Q. Rather than how to look after the children on a daily
6 basis?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. SR52 has said as a teacher in the school you were
9 expected to help out in with the children as you
10 have described --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- but you wouldn't have had any responsibility for
13 their care at that time?

14 **A. No, none.**

15 Q. And in -- to what extent were the sisters assisted by
16 volunteers that you can recall both in and then in

17

18 **A. No. We didn't have volunteers except ' , as sister**
19 **said, you know, the older girls would have helped out.**

20 Q. And later in would the older girls have been
21 involved?

22 **A. No, because we had the staff then. I suppose in of**
23 **the twelve children I had at any time a lot of those**
24 **were families. So if you had a family of three and a**
25 **family of four, only -- we had very few children just on**

1 **their own. It was nearly all family groups. So it was**
2 **different.**

3 Q. Can I ask you were you aware of whether the home had
4 a managing committee of any sort?

5 **A. Not that I know of.**

6 Q. You certainly don't remember one?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. Can you say -- I think you have said that in you
9 wouldn't have known what the histories of any of the
10 children was --

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. -- or how they came to be in Nazareth House?

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. In you have described that there was social workers
15 involved by that stage for most of the children or all
16 of them would you say?

17 **A. It was for all of them, because, as sister said as well,**
18 **the children in would have been those who come up**
19 **through our system, if you like, and then in**
20 **families would be -- come in through the social worker.**
21 **They may have been short-term or longer term, but ...**

22 Q. Can I ask you if you remember any particular social
23 workers that you would have worked with from

24 **A. The main person I remember is TL4.**

25 Q. Can I just -- because you were supposed to be going to

1 but that didn't happen. Is that correct?

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

3 Q. You then came back and you were assigned to Belfast.

4 Was Nazareth House in Derry the only experience of
5 a children's home you had before you went to Belfast?

6 **A. No. I was trained in and that was a children's
7 home as well and there were three groups there.**

8 **I didn't work directly with them, but I would have known
9 what was happening within the house, and I felt that
10 they were much further advanced than Derry was at that
11 time.**

12 Q. What years were you in

13 **A.**

14 Q. And that was just before you --

15 **A. And then I came to Derry in**

16 Q. -- came to Derry. In to were
17 operating the family unit system?

18 **A. Very much so, and then they had their social workers.**

19 Q. When you moved to Belfast, what was the position with
20 regard to the set-up in Belfast?

21 **A. Yes. The social worker system was just coming in then
22 in Belfast in**

23 Q. ?

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. Can I ask you what life was like in terms of the social

1 and political conditions that existed in Derry in
2 and then later in ? Sister has described it, you
3 know, as high unemployment --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and fathers collecting children.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Is that your recollection?

8 **A. That's the same, yes.**

9 Q. And the troubles would have been quite -- at a height in
10 .

11 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

12 Q. Did that have an impact on the home that you can recall?

13 **A. Oh, yes, it would, yes. The children wouldn't have been
14 out so much at all, because it was dangerous to be out.**

15 Q. What about when you went back in ?

16 **A. Oh, no, things had changed a lot then, yes. They were
17 coming and going all the time then. Children were out
18 and involved in activities within the community and
19 going to the swimming pool and all sorts of things.**

20 Q. So there was greater involvement --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- with the children within the community --

23 **A. In the community, yes.**

24 Q. -- and interaction with the community in ?

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. is it correct there were only girls in

2 Termonbacca -- sorry -- in Nazareth House?

3 **A. There were two -- two small boys. One was a twin and**

4 **the other -- he was 3 or 4 and the other was 5.**

5 Q. And they were the only boys --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- who were resident at that time?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. What about in when you went back?

10 **A. Yes, there were boys then there. So there were sibling**

11 **groups. There were boys and girls.**

12 Q. I asked SR52 about problems of sexual abuse or peer

13 sexual abuse and what awareness she would have had about

14 such issues. In would you have been aware that --

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. -- there was any issue with regard to children in a home

17 and this sort of issue?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. What about ?

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

21 Q. How did you come to be aware that this could be

22 a difficulty or an issue in a home?

23 **A. Well at that time, not but perhaps more towards the**

24 **, we would have had children who would have been in**

25 **with incest. So there was a couple of families with**

1 **that. So we were involved with the social workers and**
2 **families and police and all the rest of it.**

3 Q. I take it from the conversation we had earlier that as
4 a result of the discussions then that you would have had
5 with social workers they would have alerted you to
6 behaviours that you ought to have --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- in mind when looking after the children?

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

10 Q. But that was really only as a result of what you were
11 told by Social Services?

12 **A. Yes, and working through the cases, yes.**

13 Q. Did you yourself ever receive any training on how to
14 deal with such matters?

15 **A. No, not officially.**

16 Q. What about the staff in the home? Did they have
17 training?

18 **A. Yes, they would have had, yes.**

19 Q. Can I ask you what you remember about record-keeping?
20 Do you remember how records were kept or did that
21 change?

22 **A. Well, I didn't know anything about it in , but in**
23 **we would have had kind of a notebook where we'd wrote --**
24 **written down important dates and things like that when**
25 **parents would visit or anything else that the children**

1 **were doing, and then we would have that and prepared**
2 **a report then for the social -- for the case conference.**

3 Q. When you say a notebook, was that a notebook for each
4 child?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. So each child had its own little record, as it were?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Where were those records kept, sister?

9 **A. Oh, they were kept in my bedroom in a locked cupboard.**

10 Q. A locked cupboard. So you -- and take it you only kept
11 those records for the children you had responsibility
12 for?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Did you ever share what you were writing down about the
15 children with them?

16 **A. I think that the child itself -- I think they knew it**
17 **was just -- they would have seen it before the -- before**
18 **the case conference.**

19 Q. And I take it if there were difficulties with the child,
20 that would be recorded in that notebook?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Have you any idea what happened to those notebooks or
23 ...?

24 **A. No, I don't know what happened to them.**

25 Q. Just talking about -- going back to , do -- we know

1 that there was two little boys there at that time.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Were there any of the girls that you recall having
4 brothers in Termonbacca?

5 **A. No, I wouldn't have known the families in . So**
6 **I~don't know whether they had brothers in Termonbacca or**
7 **not.**

8 Q. Do you remember the Termonbacca boys coming down to
9 Bishop Street School?

10 **A. No. That was finished before I came.**

11 Q. Before you came in ?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. So what about the sisters? Were they -- even in --
14 I know the sisters might have been kept together in the
15 family groups later on, but in would the sisters
16 have -- girls who had sisters in Nazareth House, would
17 they have mingled --

18 **A. Oh, yes.**

19 Q. -- and had contact with each other?

20 **A. Yes. They were free to come and go through the units**
21 **and visit whenever they liked.**

22 Q. Do you remember any contact between Termonbacca and
23 Bishop Street?

24 **A. Not much, just -- just between the Sisters. We would**
25 **visit them or they would visit us, but it was just**

1 **purely between the sisters.**

2 Q. But not with the children?

3 **A. Not with the children.**

4 Q. Arranged outings or anything like that?

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. Excuse me. In you said you had nothing to do with
7 the records. When you were keeping the individual
8 records, if a child complained to you about something,
9 would that be recorded in the little notebook that you
10 kept in respect of them? This is now on from
11 onwards.

12 **A. It probably would have been. I couldn't -- I am not too
13 sure now.**

14 Q. Well, can you say during your time either in or
15 do you ever remember a child complaining to you about
16 their treatment?

17 **A. Only by the other children or their siblings when they
18 fought.**

19 Q. If somebody had said, "Look, you know, SR9 has been bad
20 to me", what would you have done?

21 **A. Yes. If it was SR9, I would report it to the Superior.
22 If it was some of the other sisters, I would report it
23 to SR9.**

24 Q. You have described that you did have contact with Social
25 Services and you have named one social worker. Would

1 you describe the contact with Social Services -- how
2 would you describe the contact that you would have had
3 with the social workers?

4 **A. It was a very good relationship, yes. We would contact**
5 **them. If we had any problems or any issues we wanted to**
6 **discuss, they would come in, apart --**

7 Q. Sorry, sister.

8 **A. -- apart from the case conferences.**

9 Q. I am going to move on to a couple of specific girls --
10 specific matters --

11 **A. Right.**

12 Q. -- and talk about two girls.

13 HIA105 is the first I am going to speak to you
14 about. You remember her as one of the girls who was
15 there in when you were there --

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. -- although you say she had left before you came back.
18 Isn't that right? You deal with that in your statement
19 at paragraphs 11 and 12. You do remember her, and she
20 gave evidence to the Inquiry before your statement had
21 been received by the Inquiry, but if we could just look,
22 first of all -- I am going to look at -- if we look at
23 your statement at SND -- I don't believe we have
24 actually called up your statement at this stage, but did
25 you -- you thought you had actually made two statements

1 to the Inquiry. In fact, you only made one. You may
2 have made two to your solicitor, but that translated
3 into one statement to the Inquiry, which is at
4 SND-15832.

5 If we look at paragraph 11, you talk here about
6 HIA105, and you say she was years old when you first
7 met her in Bishop Street. She was in SR9's group. She
8 was about fifteen -- with about fifteen other children.
9 Now at that stage there would not have been the family
10 groups that we are talking about. Isn't that right,
11 sister?

12 **A. The dormitories weren't there. They had the bedrooms.**
13 **The bedrooms were complete, yes.**

14 Q. Okay. So they had been actually split into groups at
15 that stage?

16 **A. They were in groups, yes, yes. That year was**

17 Q. So:

18 "She was in SR9's group with about fifteen other
19 children. She appeared to be a very pleasant and happy
20 girl, always smiling and singing. I remember on the big
21 swing in the playground pushing the other children and
22 singing on Sunday morning. My only contact with her was
23 on school mornings before the refurbishment of the
24 dining rooms when it was her job before school to mop
25 the floor in the toilets."

1 You go on to talk about an incident I am going to
2 come to in a moment, but in that -- she says in
3 paragraph 5 of her statement -- she makes an allegation
4 of what happened to her when she was very young child in
5 Nazareth House. You dispute about you arriving a few
6 months before she left the home in , because you
7 didn't come back until . Then you say you:

8 "... had not been in contact with her from the time
9 I left Derry in until I met her at the reunion in
10 ,

11 although I did tell you what she had told the
12 Inquiry, which can be found on page SND-17037, which is
13 the transcript of her evidence when I was putting to you
14 about what you were saying about the contact that you
15 had with her.

16 She said that she became friendly with you -- if we
17 just look -- it's page 23 on the right-hand side. She
18 said:

19 "Yes, I became friendly with her when I had a
20 wedding to go to. One of the girls in the convent was
21 getting married, so I got invited to the wedding and she
22 was at the wedding, so she was, and we sort of struck up
23 a friendship, and I got on very well with her brother,
24 and he actually gave me a beautiful dog to take home
25 with me, you know."

1 Do you recollect meeting HIA105 at another girl's
2 wedding?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And is it correct that you introduced her to your
5 brother and that he gave her a dog?

6 **A. Actually she came to the wedding. She wasn't invited,
7 and then she had no way of getting home. She lived in
8 at the time and the wedding was in**

9 **So after the wedding then, probably -- I don't know -- 2
10 or 3 o'clock in the morning, she said she had nowhere to
11 go. So my brother had a caravan at the side of the
12 house. I offered her to come there, and so I stayed
13 with her and another girl and we -- we didn't sleep much
14 but we had the opportunity.**

15 Q. Would this have been before that reunion in then?

16 **A. Yes, it would have been.**

17 Q. I mean, do you accept that your brother gave her a dog?

18 **A. Oh, yes, yes.**

19 Q. Then she -- I then put to her:

20 "So this contact then went on for a number of
21 years?"

22 She said in her statement around 2003/2004 she told
23 you about the incident that had happened to her
24 involving a nun in the nursery, and HIA105 said:

25 "Yes, I did, yes."

1 You told her what the circumstance -- what were the
2 circumstances of you telling her about that. No.
3 Sorry. I asked her what were the circumstances and she
4 said she was just in a very, very low mood that day.

5 "I was just talking to her on the phone and I just
6 came out with it. I just told her, and she told me she
7 would have to report it immediately, you know, which she
8 did and got back to me in 20 minutes or so to say that
9 it was such-and-such and such-and-such a nun that did
10 it".

11 Question: You talk about that in your statement.
12 You suggest it may have been a nun who was there on
13 summer relief.

14 Answer: Yes, that's correct."

15 Question: She -- you say" -- this is HIA105 says --
16 "that she has since denied she had the conversation with
17 you, and what were the circumstances of her denying that
18 she had told you -- you had told her this?

19 Answer: She just said to me that she would have
20 remembered if something like that had been said to her,
21 but again I've sworn on the bible and I would swear on
22 the bible again that this conversation did take place,
23 you know.

24 Question: And the only way that you have -- sorry.
25 Have you had contact with her since? Are you still in

1 contact with her?

2 Answer: No, I'm not, no."

3 Now in your statement, sister, if we can just go
4 back to that, which is paragraph 12 at page SND-15833,
5 you deal with this issue and you say:

6 "In response to paragraph 5 of her statement HIA105
7 says I arrived a few months before she left the home in
8 . This is untrue, because I arrived back in Derry in
9 . I have not been in contact her -- in contact her
10 from the time I left Derry in until I met her at the
11 reunion in ,

12 but you now seem to accept you had met her some
13 time between and

14 **A. Actually I don't remember when the wedding was.**

15 Q. Well, it's possible that you may have done?

16 **A. years. What's years ago?**

17 Q. years ago would be

18 **A. I didn't meet her anyway until the wedding after she
19 left Derry.**

20 Q. But you say that when -- she phoned you when you were in
21 and and you remember the conversation.

22 "She told me about the incident. She asked me about
23 names of all the Sisters who were Derry -- in Derry in
24 her time there. I told her SR9, SR59, SR52 and myself.
25 She said there was another Sister in the nursery and she

1 mentioned two names", and those names are there.

2 "I told her I never heard of any Sisters with those
3 names. She asked me to contact SR59. I told her SR59
4 was in , that she had and I would not
5 contact her because of her condition",
6 and you never phoned SR59.

7 Can I just confirm with you you did have a telephone
8 conversation with her. She did tell you about what she
9 was alleging had happened to her and it was a form of
10 sexual abuse by a nun.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Do you recall that conversation?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Although you dispute the circumstances of how she -- you
15 say she gave you names of nuns --

16 **A. She did, yes.**

17 Q. -- whereas she says you gave her names of nuns. You say
18 that's incorrect.

19 **A. That's incorrect, yes.**

20 Q. One of the things you -- we spoke about this earlier,
21 and you were spoken to by the police in January 2012.

22 Do you remember the police contacting you?

23 **A. I do, yes.**

24 Q. That was because HIA105 had made a statement to the
25 police --

1 **A. That's correct.**

2 Q. -- about what she said. If we can just look at this, it
3 is a note that the police have made of their
4 conversation with you, which is SND-15154. If we can
5 just look at the paragraph that begins:

6 "On 5th January ...",

7 and highlight that at the bottom of the second
8 penultimate paragraph there, just that last paragraph.

9 It just says there:

10 "On 5th January ..."

11 This I should tell you is a summary of the police's
12 involvement and what they did in relation to the
13 complaint that HIA105 had made to them. It said:

14 "On 5th January 2012 police spoke with [yourself]
15 regarding a conversation with HIA105. She confirmed she
16 knew HIA105 but that she never discussed HIA105 being
17 a victim of sexual or physical abuse. Sister stated
18 that she had no information concerning physical or
19 sexual abuse occurring in Nazareth House, Bishop Street,
20 Londonderry."

21 So that seems to suggest, sister, when the police
22 contacted you in January 2012, you were telling them
23 HIA105 had never discussed with you she had been the
24 victim of abuse. Do you recollect telling the police
25 that?

1 **A. I thought I told them what she told me, which was she**
2 **was enquiring about the sister who came and abused her,**
3 **but obviously that's what I said.**

4 Q. I mean, that's what the police have recorded.

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. I can't go beyond that.

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. We don't have a statement from the police officer.

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. But they seem to suggest that you say she didn't tell
11 you but you are quite clear she did actually tell you
12 about the incident she said happened to her. She did
13 have a conversation?

14 **A. She had a conversation, but she didn't tell me what**
15 **happened. She just said -- she said she was abused by**
16 **a Sister. That's right.**

17 Q. I mean, can I just be clear? Did she tell you that that
18 abuse was of a sexual nature in that conversation?

19 **A. Yes, yes.**

20 Q. Then if we can move on then to another girl, who is
21 HIA169. You said that HIA169 had to sweep up in the
22 dining room in the mornings. HIA169 has given
23 a statement to the Inquiry, and she was in Nazareth
24 House from until In that
25 statement she talks about a number of matters, which may

1 well have happened prior to you ever going to Nazareth
2 House, for example, brushing hair with a steel comb,
3 beatings by SR9, SR59.

4 One of the things she told us was that she would
5 have been a handful and would have got drunk. Do you
6 ever remember that?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. Do you ever remember a wound to her leg?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. You say that -- I mean, you were only there for a short
11 period of time that HIA169 was there. I mean, she was
12 there until , but for years of her time there
13 you wouldn't have been present in Nazareth House. Isn't
14 that correct?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. She talks about an incident with a brick and she said in
17 her statement that you saw blood running down her head,
18 but in your statement you say you did not witness that
19 incident with the brick, that you had left the home when
20 that happened.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. In fairness to her I put to her what you had said in
23 your statement about that and she says she thinks she
24 may have been mistaken, that she got confused about
25 dates and that you probably didn't witness that

1 incident.

2 You describe one incident, though, that you did
3 witness. If we can go back to your statement, it is
4 paragraph 17 of your statement, which is page SND-15834.
5 You say here that:

6 "The incident described in paragraph 12 regarding
7 SR9 did not take place after school. It happened one
8 night before the older children went to bed. I was
9 supervising the bath time of SR9's group. I cannot
10 remember how it started, but HIA169 was swinging off the
11 top of the bathroom door and fooling around. I asked
12 her to stop but she kept on swinging. I told her that
13 if she did not stop, I would bring her to SR9. She
14 didn't stop. When the bathing was finished, I took her
15 to SR9, who was downstairs."

16 Now can I just pause there, because certainly when
17 I was talking to you, I had some confusion about what
18 we're talking about when we talk about "downstairs".
19 What was downstairs?

20 **A. Downstairs was the bottom corridor, which was a school**
21 **corridor.**

22 Q. So when we --

23 **A. It was a school corridor.**

24 Q. -- come on to talk about outside a classroom, it would
25 have been there?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. "I told SR9 what had happened. SR9 lifted her hand to
3 give HIA169 a clip on the ear but HIA169 quickly moved
4 her head to the side to avoid SR9's hand, but banged the
5 side of her head against a cabinet nearby. I did not
6 see what happened next, because SR9 asked me to go
7 upstairs. I believe HIA169 has a scar on the side of
8 her head as a result of this incident. I was shocked,
9 as I never previously witnessed anything like this
10 incident."

11 Now you have said that that is the only time that
12 you saw any nun strike out at a child. Is that correct?

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. And that was the only occasion that you recall
15 witnessing anything that might amount to an assault on
16 HIA169?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And just there is a taped -- a transcript of a taped
19 telephone conversation that you had with HIA169, and
20 I know, sister, from your statement you were annoyed to
21 find out that HIA169 had taped that conversation, and it
22 can be found at SND-4369 onwards.

23 She told you in that conversation that she was
24 pursuing a prosecution against SR2 -- sorry; I beg your
25 pardon -- SR52. She told you that she had cut her leg

1 herself, and that when the bandages had to come off,
2 SR59 and SR52 held her down while SR9 pulled off the
3 bandage. She said -- and I am just going to go through
4 this quickly without pulling it up, but we have gone
5 through this -- she said that you -- to you:

6 "You were there when I was battered and bruised."

7 She asked you to support her because you saw stuff,
8 and you said in response to that that you would have to
9 think about it and that you would have to get advice on
10 it too. Later on she said:

11 "You saw stuff",

12 and you made the comment:

13 "I didn't see that much, because I'll tell you what.
14 I was very junior at that time."

15 I appreciate this is difficult and it was what you
16 considered to be a private conversation between yourself
17 and HIA105, but can I ask you, sister, what you actually
18 meant by that comment that you didn't see that much
19 because you were very junior at that time?

20 **A. I probably meant I didn't see anything else. I think**
21 **I was taken by surprise, because she wanted me to come**
22 **to court with her against SR52, and that's what I said**
23 **I would have to think about, and it wasn't -- I wasn't**
24 **prepared perhaps maybe to do that.**

25 Q. Again there's another entry at SND-4375 where you say

1 that you were new in the Order and you weren't in on
2 that, again when she's talking about what was done --
3 what she said was done to her. You say you used to
4 sleep on the middle floor.

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

6 Q. How would that have had any effect on what you may or
7 may not have seen, if I can ask?

8 **A. Because the children -- at that time there were the
9 dormitories upstairs and I was never upstairs.**

10 Q. I mean, she does go on about wanting to expose the Order
11 in Derry and you talk about a nest of eggs and there
12 being bad ones. I suppose what I am asking is what
13 again did you mean by that when you were saying that to
14 her?

15 **A. I suppose I was saying that -- I wasn't referring to
16 anything in particular I suppose. I was saying that in
17 any organisation there are some people but I wasn't
18 saying that -- what am I saying? In the Order I am sure
19 there were people who would have done that, but I wasn't
20 specifically thinking about anybody in particular.**

21 Q. So you were basically accepting that there may have been
22 people in the Order who -- maybe -- I don't want to put
23 words into your mouth, sister --

24 **A. No, no.**

25 Q. -- but if I can suggest to you there may have been

1 people who may not have been temperamentally suited to
2 childcare, would that be a fair comment?

3 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

4 Q. Although you didn't witness any other episode of any
5 physical assault by a nun, can I ask in your experience
6 did you come across some of the nuns who might not have
7 been temperamentally suited to looking after children?
8 I don't expect you to name names, sister. I am just
9 asking --

10 **A. No. I would say yes, perhaps there was.**

11 Q. HIA169 talks about her misbehaving and you reporting her
12 to SR9. It seems -- now I accept that the transcript is
13 confusing, and one of the things I put to you, and for
14 clarity I am putting this to you now, it seemed to me on
15 reading through the transcript that it looked like you
16 were remembering two different incidents of witnessing
17 HIA169 being struck by SR9, but --

18 **A. No, there was the only incident --**

19 Q. -- that isn't correct?

20 **A. -- where I reported her to SR9, which you have just
21 dealt with. I never saw her in any other way.**

22 Q. Just finally about HIA169, when she gave evidence to the
23 Inquiry, I put what you had said in your statement to
24 her, and she said that she was your favourite, that you
25 loved each other, and that if SR9 caught her helping you

1 in your classroom, she would get really angry. That can
2 being found in the transcript of 3rd March 2014 at page
3 176. I don't have a Bates number for that. That's just
4 for the record, sister.

5 You said in paragraph 14 of your statement that you
6 were very fond of HIA169. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes. Oh, yes. She was a very pleasant person. I think**
8 **she was very much attention seeking, and I suppose when**
9 **I came there, I was -- I was younger and I'd come from**
10 **and I was more -- I don't know -- normal with or**
11 **felt more comfortable with the young people, and so she**
12 **could relate to me. So she kind of came after me a lot**
13 **just looking for attention and just a wee chat.**

14 Q. Can I just ask you had spent time in which you
15 say was much more advanced than Derry.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Do you think the experience that you had in and
18 what you had witnessed there made you more progressive
19 a childcare nun, as it were, than those who were there
20 at the time, in Derry at the time?

21 **A. Well, perhaps I was -- as I said to you before, you**
22 **know, I was myself and that's -- the homely atmosphere**
23 **that I wanted to create was one where they could see me**
24 **as somebody they could come and talk to.**

25 Q. In that regard can I just ask you about -- one of the

1 things that HIA169 said was that SR9 didn't like her and
2 this business about catching her helping you in the
3 classroom. Do you have any recollection of anything
4 about that?

5 **A. Yes. HIA169 would come down and see if I was still in**
6 **my classroom after school, and I remember one particular**
7 **evening she came in and said, "Do you want me to do**
8 **something for you?" I said, "Well, we were painting**
9 **today. Would you like to take the paint brushes and**
10 **clean them out at the sink?" So when HIA169 was**
11 **cleaning them, SR9 came along and asked her what she was**
12 **doing, and she sent her upstairs and she came to me --**
13 **SR9 came to me and said, "Don't be asking HIA169 to help**
14 **you and don't really" -- she didn't really want me to do**
15 **-- I think her concern was that HIA169 might be annoying**
16 **me or pestering me and from SR9's point of view was**
17 **dithering.**

18 **Q. Well, given that certainly HIA169 liked you and it would**
19 **appear that HIA105 did, is it possible that whenever**
20 **they contacted you out of all the nuns that they may**
21 **have come across in their career it was because they**
22 **felt that they had a relationship with you and that you**
23 **would support them?**

24 **A. Yes, in thinking about it now, yes, they probably did.**

25 **Q. And we know that HIA169 wrote to you in December 2013**

1 just before we opened the Inquiry and again she was
2 asking for your support. Did you reply to that, sister?

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

4 Q. Can I ask why you didn't?

5 **A. I probably didn't want to get involved.**

6 Q. Well, just thinking back now -- as we have already
7 discussed, hindsight is a wonderful thing --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- but looking back -- and clearly there's a contrast
10 between and -- how would you describe the
11 regime in in Nazareth House?

12 **A. Well, I think with the large amount of children, large
13 number of children it was very difficult to have it any
14 other way but regimental I suppose, and -- but SR9 was
15 strict but she was fair, and in '72 SR9 wasn't in. SR59
16 was there and she certainly had -- well, it was easier
17 because of the family units, and there were more -- they
18 were made more homely by being all in the one area in a
19 flat. A flat is different to a big building.**

20 Q. Thank you, sister. That is all the questions I have to
21 ask you, but can I just ask you is there anything you
22 feel we haven't covered? I mean, obviously I haven't
23 gone through your statement word for word, but the
24 Inquiry Panel has it and can read it. Is there anything
25 you want to say at this stage that hasn't already been

1 said or that you feel ought to be said?

2 **A. No. I think everything's been covered.**

3 Q. Okay. Well, the Inquiry Panel Members may have some
4 questions for you.

5 Questions from THE PANEL

6 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, sister. I appreciate your
7 testimony. Can I just say when you describe taking
8 HIA169 down to see SR9, what was the expectation about
9 that? If children misbehaved, did they go to SR9 as
10 the --

11 **A. Well, I suppose, as I explained to her, that if she**
12 **wouldn't do what I asked her to do, then I had no**
13 **control over her, and that maybe if SR9 spoke to her,**
14 **she would do what she was told or should have done what**
15 **she was told.**

16 Q. Were you surprised about the clip around the ear?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And that was the only time --

19 **A. That was the only time, yes.**

20 Q. Okay, and in terms of the contrast between and
21 the Nazareth House in Derry, the sense of, you know, you
22 being more normal and another comfortable, was the
23 actual atmosphere in more of a normal --

24 **A. Well, it was the units, which only came into Derry later**
25 **on, but when I went to Derry, it was still -- they all**

1 went into the school dining room where they ate their
2 meals. So they all had to come down to the school
3 dining room, and it was all kind of very institutional.
4 They all came there and it was a large amount of
5 children together whereas in they all had their
6 own dining rooms. They all had their own sitting rooms.
7 They had their own sleeping areas.

8 Q. I can see how structural differences -- how structural
9 changes can make a difference and smaller group living
10 can make a difference, but sometimes even if you make
11 those differences and the attitudes of the people that
12 are responsible for the children remain the same, then
13 some of those old approaches can still continue. Did
14 you feel that when you went back? Did you feel that the
15 attitudes of the nuns had changed as well as the
16 structural ...?

17 A. **When I came back -- when I came to Derry?**

18 Q. Derry.

19 A. **Yes. No, the nuns were -- it wasn't -- it was just that**
20 **the whole system was just different to what I was used**
21 **to in what I experienced in .**

22 Q. But when you came back to Derry the second time --

23 A. **Oh, yes.**

24 Q. -- did you think that there was a different approach
25 from the nuns to what had been at the first time?

1 A. Well, it was SR59 was still there. So that wasn't any
2 difference. SR59 was different to SR9, because she
3 didn't have to be such a disciplinarian perhaps, because
4 it was the smaller units.

5 Q. Okay. Thank you, sister.

6 MR LANE: You mentioned that you had met TL4 and that he
7 visited. Was that as a social worker for individual
8 children or did he have a different role?

9 A. No, I think TL4 was more senior, because at one stage
10 we -- the amount of children coming to us had depleted
11 a lot and I was concerned. So I remember asking TL4 to
12 come in and talk to me about it, which he did. So he
13 was senior.

14 Q. So he talked about general things?

15 A. General things, yes, yes. We were wondering why we
16 didn't have -- I mean, we couldn't survive if the
17 children -- the numbers of children had gone down
18 altogether. So ...

19 Q. How frequently did he call when you were there?

20 A. TL4 would call --

21 Q. Monthly or weekly?

22 A. It wasn't -- it was as and when needed, you know. If we
23 wanted him for something, we would phone him, or if he
24 wanted to discuss something with us, he would phone and
25 come in and speak to us.

1 Q. Did he advise you on the running of the home as well?

2 **A. Oh, we would talk about that, yes.**

3 Q. Yes.

4 **A. Anything to do with the home that we were concerned,**
5 **that I would be concerned about.**

6 Q. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN: Just to follow on the last point, sister, the
8 impression one gets from what you said about TL4 is it
9 wasn't just a formal relationship in the sense that if
10 you had a problem, you would ring and at the next
11 arranged visit somebody would turn up and speak to you
12 about it on the agenda, so to speak; rather that he was
13 in and out of the place very frequently, and that he and
14 yourselves had a very close and easy working
15 relationship --

16 **A. Yes, very much so.**

17 Q. -- where people wouldn't stand on ceremony, and if you
18 wanted advice about something --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- you would ask him and he would say and so on.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Is that a fair reading of the picture?

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

24 Q. And presumably a good deal of mutual trust and
25 understanding on both sides?

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