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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 Thursday, 13th February 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 10)

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

1 Thursday, 13th February 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 **HIA 151** (HIA151) (called)

4 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

5 CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

6 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
7 gentlemen. I apologise for the delay in getting started  
8 this morning. We are intending to use some photographic  
9 evidence with this witness and we were trying to get it  
10 scanned on to the system. People are still working on  
11 that and hopefully we will get it on before we conclude  
12 the witness' evidence in any event.

13 **HIA 151** could you just stand up, please? The Chairman  
14 wishes you to either take the oath or affirm.

15 CHAIRMAN: **HIA 151** do you wish to take either a religious oath  
16 or to affirm? The legal effect is the same. It's a  
17 matter very much for yourself.

18 **A. Take the oath.**

19 **HIA 151** (HIA151) (sworn)

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

21 MS SMITH: **HIA 151** -- this is Witness 151, ladies and gentlemen.

22 **HIA 151** you are happy for me to call you by your first  
23 name, and certainly prior to today your identity has  
24 been well-known, as you have been instrumental in trying  
25 to set up this Inquiry. Isn't that correct?

1 **A. That's correct.**

2 Q. Now I know that there are certain details that will come  
3 out from your testimony today that you have never made  
4 public before, and due to the fact that you still have  
5 a young family, we would ask that that material be  
6 treated sensitively by the press.

7 **A. That's true.**

8 Q. But you are happy for the press nonetheless to report  
9 your full name?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Thank you. Can I just confirm, **HIA 151** you are now aged  
12 61?

13 **A. That's true.**

14 Q. And during your childhood you spent time at Termonbacca  
15 in Derry?

16 **A. That's correct.**

17 Q. Now in -- you were born in 1952 and you went into  
18 Termonbacca, according to the Sisters of Nazareth  
19 records, in 1956. If I just ask you to look at two  
20 documents, please. The first of these is at SND-1502.  
21 This is a letter that you received from the Sisters of  
22 Nazareth when you wrote asking for details and  
23 information about your time in Termonbacca.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. **HIA 151** can I just check, please -- if you could just pull

1 the microphone slightly towards you, because we do have  
2 to get a record of what you're telling us. Thank you.

3 You'll see there that your name is stated there.  
4 What you are seeing on the screen has got black  
5 redactions to preserve details generally. You will see  
6 that it says -- where you were born is actually, in  
7 fact, blacked out. Your date of birth is blacked out,  
8 and it says where you were baptised, your mother and  
9 father's names, your father's occupation and who you  
10 were recommended by. It says in that document you were  
11 admitted on 21st March 1956, you left on 5th July 1965,  
12 and it observes that your parents were both living.

13 Now can I ask you -- you don't actually agree that  
14 is the date you were admitted to Termonbacca. Is that  
15 correct?

16 **A. No, I don't. My father was involved in an accident on**  
17 **13th October 1955 and as a result of that when they went**  
18 **to tell my mother, my mother went into labour and my**  
19 **father was taken to one hospital. My mother was taken**  
20 **to another. I don't know what happened in between**  
21 **October and March of 1956. I have no idea what**  
22 **happened, you know. I was three years of age, and my**  
23 **earliest memory of -- of [REDACTED] was actually the**  
24 **guys tarring the road. So ...**

25 **Q. But you believe that because of the circumstances of**

1 your parents both ending up in hospital on the same day,  
2 that you may have actually been in Termonbacca earlier  
3 --

4 **A. I think it may have been earlier.**

5 Q. -- than the records suggest?

6 **A. Yes. I think I may have been there earlier.**

7 Q. Thank you. Can I ask you: what is your first memory of  
8 being in Termonbacca?

9 **A. I remember coming out of a car, and the driveway at the**  
10 **front of Termonbacca had gravel on it, and I remember**  
11 **the crunch of the gravel and it was cold and it was late**  
12 **in the evening -- later in the evening -- you know, it**  
13 **was dark -- and being lifted. At some point I remember**  
14 **there was -- there was a woman in the car and there was**  
15 **somebody else in the car, and I'm not sure if it was my**  
16 **older brother or my younger brother in the back of the**  
17 **car, and being taken down the steps at the side of**  
18 **Termonbacca and down into the nursery.**

19 Q. Okay. Can I just pause there, **HIA 151** because I have  
20 neglected to and I ought to have asked you to prove the  
21 witness statement that you provided to the Inquiry. So  
22 could we please call up SND-1479, please? **HIA 151** again  
23 you will see the black redactions on this document and  
24 you will see that it says the "Witness Statement of  
25 HIA151", which is the reference number that you have

1           been given by the Inquiry.

2           Then if we could move to the final page of that  
3           statement, which is 1490, and you will see that the  
4           statement is stated 30th October 2013, and beneath that  
5           large black rectangle your signature is there. Isn't  
6           that correct?

7           **A. That is my statement.**

8           Q. I just want to confirm this is the evidence you wish the  
9           Inquiry to consider together with whatever else you tell  
10          us today.

11          **A. That's it, yes.**

12          Q. So you were saying that you were taken into Termonbacca  
13          and brought downstairs. What do you next remember?

14          **A. Being stripped and bathed and dressed and I -- for quite  
15          some time after that not really knowing where I was or  
16          what was going on. and I don't even think at that point  
17          that I was aware that I was missing anybody. I just  
18          knew this was different. It was strange and it was  
19          scary.**

20          Q. You talk about your arrival at first at paragraphs 3 and  
21          4 of your witness statement. Can I just ask also -- you  
22          were -- in 1955 you were 3.

23          **A. Yes.**

24          Q. And you were taken --

25          **A. In fact, in October 1955 I wouldn't even have been 3.**

1           **My birthday was in -- well, it was later in the year.**

2    Q.    You spent some time then in the nursery.

3    **A.    Yes.**

4    Q.    Did your mother and father visit you while you were in  
5           the home at all?

6    **A.    I remember one visit in they called it a parlour and  
7           it wasn't until I was certainly probably 9 I remember my  
8           mother being there. I don't remember my father.**

9    Q.    And you talked about being taken to Termonbacca with  
10           your brothers.

11   **A.    Yes.**

12   Q.    Did you have any other siblings?

13   **A.    Well, at that point I wouldn't have known my mother had  
14           given birth to my sister.**

15   Q.    So what happened to your brothers when you arrived at  
16           Termonbacca?

17   **A.    I don't know. I didn't see them again. I had no  
18           recollection of them. I was quite some time in  
19           Termonbacca before I actually found out that I had two  
20           brothers in Termonbacca.**

21   Q.    Can I you to look at a photograph, **HIA 151** This is  
22           a photograph that has been -- I think you actually  
23           brought a copy of this photograph to the Inquiry.

24   **A.    Yes.**

25   Q.    It is SND-14148.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. This was used yesterday with -- can I just say you have  
3 sat -- since we have started this module of evidence,  
4 you have sat daily and listened to what the other  
5 witnesses have had to say. Isn't that correct?

6 **A. I have.**

7 Q. And you saw this photograph being called up yesterday.  
8 You actually did bring a copy yourself to the Inquiry,  
9 but can you identify yourself in that photograph?

10 **A. Yes. I'm on the -- if you're looking at it, I am on the**  
11 **right in the second row from the back and I'm the second**  
12 **guy in. That would be -- that's actually me here.**

13 Q. There's a lady just front of you. Is that correct?

14 **A. That's right. You're on my -- she would be on my right,**  
15 **yes.**

16 CHAIRMAN: And there there's a boy who seems to have his arm  
17 on your left shoulder.

18 **A. That's right. That's right, Mr Chairman.**

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 MS SMITH: Can you identify anyone else in that photograph?

21 **A. I can identify a lot of people in that photograph.**

22 Q. Can I ask you: do you see your brothers there at all?

23 **A. I can see them now, yes. My younger brother, is if**  
24 **you're looking at the photograph, on the left of the**  
25 **lady with the hand on her left shoulder and my brother**



1           **is just behind the guy there. So this is ...**

2   Q.   If you could maybe just point.

3   **A.   That's actually where my younger brother is.**

4   CHAIRMAN:  Is that the boy whose face is partly hidden --

5   **A.   Yes.**

6   Q.   -- by the hair of the boy in front of him?

7   **A.   Yes, Mr Chairman, and my older brother is right at the**  
8           **back on the left-hand side with his chin up.**

9   CHAIRMAN:  I see.

10  MS SMITH:  Now this -- it has been suggested that this  
11            photograph was taken outside the Guildhall in Derry.  Do  
12            you have any recollection of it being taken?

13  **A.   I don't remember it being taken, but I certainly know**  
14           **the building and it is the Guildhall in Derry.**

15  Q.   It's also been suggested that the adults in this may  
16            have been members of the St. Vincent de Paul.

17  **A.   I would -- I'd be inclined to agree with that.  I would**  
18           **say even the women may very well have been members of**  
19           **the Confraternity of --**

20  Q.   This photograph may have been when you were taken on  
21            a day trip by St. Vincent de Paul?

22  **A.   Yes.**

23  Q.   Despite the fact that you are in the photograph with  
24            your brothers you still insist that you didn't know them  
25            when you were in Termonbacca.

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

2 Q. You appreciate that the congregation suggests there was  
3 more contact between siblings than witnesses have  
4 testified to the Inquiry. Do you have any comment to  
5 make on that, **HIA 151**

6 **A. You know, I can't talk about their truth. I know mine.**

7 Q. Now if we can take you back to -- maybe I can just at  
8 this stage deal with a couple of other photographs that  
9 you did bring. There is one at -- I will leave it and  
10 come back to it when we reach that part of your  
11 evidence.

12 One of the -- you have talked about being in the  
13 home, and did you form any friendships when you were  
14 there?

15 **A. People of my age group, we -- you know, I mean, I had**  
16 **a very close friend called [REDACTED] who actually**  
17 **got in touch with me very recently. He's living in the**  
18 **States. I haven't heard or seen him for 55 years, and**  
19 **some of the other boys that are in the photograph at the**  
20 **Guildhall, we lost touch for a while, but some of them**  
21 **would still -- are friends of mine and quite a few of**  
22 **them have come to the Inquiry. A few of the other boys**  
23 **that are in that photograph over the years we had**  
24 **contact, we were friends, but in Termonbacca it would**  
25 **have been people around our age -- around our own age**

1 group that we were friends with. I mean, most of the  
2 guys in that photograph, yes, you know, we would have --  
3 we would have played. We would have messed about. We  
4 would have worked on the farm together. We would have  
5 done like a lot of stuff together, yes.

6 Q. You remember the home as -- there were two types of  
7 activity in the home that were important: eating and  
8 praying.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You also in your statement refer to the first time you  
13 picked up a book --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and you describe it as there was almost  
16 a disconnection from everybody around you. What were  
17 you trying to convey by that comment, **HIA 151**

18 A. This was a place that seemed absolutely and totally  
19 disorganised. It was a place where it wasn't  
20 comfortable to be. Being somewhere at the wrong time  
21 and with the wrong people, you could have ended up  
22 getting punished for it. There was quite a bit of work,  
23 though, and in what would have been classed as I suppose  
24 -- it wasn't allowed to be called it -- idle time -- and  
25 there was always something that would have been created

1 for you to do, because, you know, the devil finds work  
2 for idle hands -- I came across a book, and I actually  
3 remembered the book now and the book was "Irish Folk  
4 Legends" -- "Irish Myths and Legends" and it was  
5 absolutely fascinating. There were no pictures in it  
6 and I was about five years of age -- five or six years  
7 of age here.

8 Q. And were you able to read it at that age?

9 A. I was able to -- I was able to make out parts of it, and  
10 then it was actually a book I had gone back to and gone  
11 back to and, in fact, I still have an interest in Irish  
12 mythology.

13 Q. Where was this book in?

14 A. I actually think -- there is a point where I remember  
15 a book shelf somewhere and not that many books on it.  
16 It looked like -- this wasn't a library. These were  
17 books literally thrown on a shelf. There were books.  
18 There were quite a few religious magazines. I mean,  
19 I~remember there was a magazine that came in every month  
20 from the Dominic Savio Guild. The reason why I remember  
21 that is we had a picture in the playroom in Termonbacca  
22 that had a large -- and actually been to where Dominic  
23 Savio was from -- and there was a big picture up on the  
24 wall. The crazy thing about it is this coloured monk  
25 and the sign underneath it, the logo that was part of

1 the picture actually said, "Death rather than sin". It  
2 always got me.

3 Q. Well, **HIA 151** during your time in Termonbacca did you go to  
4 Bishop Street School?

5 A. I went to Nazareth House School, yes.

6 Q. And what do you wish to say to the Inquiry about the  
7 education that you received?

8 A. First, there were good -- there were good and bad things  
9 about it. There was a teacher there I thought was  
10 absolutely amazing, a teacher called **SND 130**  
11 I thought she was brilliant. I mean, I'm a young child  
12 just starting school, and I think I was with her for  
13 probably two, maybe three, years. I thought she was  
14 amazing. She was I suppose what you call a lay teacher.

15 One of the other difficulties that I had was I was  
16 born left-handed, and left-handedness wasn't something  
17 that -- you know, you wrote with the devil's hand  
18 apparently, and I had been beaten frequently for writing  
19 with my left hand, being refused the opportunity to  
20 write at all if I couldn't write with my right hand.  
21 I now write with my right hand, but I can still use my  
22 left hand every now and then, but that was, as I said,  
23 as a result of constant beating by a particular nun.

24 Q. Yes. You do talk about this in your witness statement,  
25 **HIA 151** at paragraph 15.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Just go back then to page SND-1482 -- 3. Sorry. In  
3 paragraph 15 there you refer to being left-handed and  
4 you refer to the nun who you say essentially beat you  
5 for being left-handed and tried to beat you -- that out  
6 of you.

7 You now accept I take it, **HIA 151** from what you have  
8 said to us that this was not an uncommon practice.  
9 Children who were left-handed in that day and age were  
10 seen as -- left-handedness was seen as something that  
11 had to be corrected?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And have you anything to say, though, about this?

14 **A. Just because -- just because it wasn't right didn't make**  
15 **it right, you know, and I think -- you know, I suppose**  
16 **later you start to understand, you know, what -- if your**  
17 **body is built in a certain way and you are wired**  
18 **a certain way, you don't really want to go messing**  
19 **around with the wiring, you know. That's what happened**  
20 **us. You know, they messed around with the wiring.**

21 Q. You at Termonbacca yourself were a bed wetter. Is that  
22 correct?

23 **A. That's correct.**

24 Q. You talk about this from paragraph -- at paragraph 6.  
25 That's SND-1480.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You say that you were a bed wetter and you were beaten  
3 for it.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You were actually wakened sometimes during the night,  
6 beaten and put back to bed still soaking wet until the  
7 morning.

8 "I do remember being beaten on the soles of my  
9 feet",

10 which didn't make sense to you.

11 "I wondered why you would beat someone on their  
12 feet. They beat me with a belt, a slipper or a shoe."

13 You do not recall the identity of the nuns who did  
14 this. You were still wetting the bed even after you  
15 left care.

16 **A. That's correct.**

17 Q. Can you -- you say that you don't recall the identity of  
18 the nuns who did this. Was it always the nuns who would  
19 have beaten you?

20 **A. It was a nun, yes.**

21 Q. Can I just ask you, you, as indicated, have been -- if  
22 we can move on to paragraph 13. Sorry. Paragraph --  
23 yes -- 13. You say that being a bed wetter meant that  
24 you were one of the last to the locker room and that as  
25 a result you often ended up having to squeeze your feet

1 into boots that were too small for you, because the  
2 other boys had got there first and had got the ones that  
3 fit them.

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

5 Q. Is that correct? Why was it that it took you -- why  
6 were the bed wetters last to get to the boot room, **HIA 151**

7 **A. Because we were all taken from the dormitory through**  
8 **what was then called -- I mean, we called it the**  
9 **classroom, but it was the playroom, down the corridor,**  
10 **down into the bathroom, and depending if there were ten,**  
11 **twelve, fourteen -- it didn't matter how many --**  
12 **everybody got bathed in a row, in some kind of an order,**  
13 **and by the time you got bathed, dried, changed everybody**  
14 **else was already down.**

15 Q. Can I ask you -- can I just perhaps check, first of all?  
16 There's an aerial photograph. Is that on? Yes. We can  
17 refer to that now on the system. It has been scanned  
18 into the system, **HIA 151** but also there's a copy of it  
19 beside you. Perhaps if we just hold that up so that we  
20 can look at it. If it can be brought up on the screen,  
21 please.

22 This is an aerial photograph that the Inquiry has  
23 received which sets out the topography of the area in  
24 which Termonbacca was situated. Can you just point out  
25 on that large photograph, first of all -- and if it is



1 of assistance, it should be in front of you on the  
2 screen also.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Can you point out the location of Termonbacca on that?

5 **A. Termonbacca is here and this is the road Southway, which  
6 comes down from the Creggan, and this is the avenue --**

7 Q. **HIA 151** can I just stop you there --

8 **A. Sorry.**

9 Q. -- because when you move towards the photograph --

10 **A. Oh, yes. I'm moving towards it. Okay.**

11 Q. Move the photograph towards you.

12 **A. I can do it on the screen.**

13 Q. Yes. Okay.

14 **A. On the right-hand side of the picture the road with the  
15 bend on it is Southway. It leads up to the Creggan. On  
16 the bend there's an avenue that comes up. Termonbacca  
17 is at the -- yes, that's it -- is at the left end of  
18 that avenue. Maybe if we can -- is it possible to blow  
19 it up a bit?**

20 Q. It should be possible, yes. We can put arrows on it.

21 CHAIRMAN: So the rest of us can get our bearings, **HIA 151** --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- if you look at that photograph, if you move to the  
24 right, eventually you got come to the river. Isn't that  
25 right?

1 **A. If you were, yes, on the right, the river. In fact, one**  
2 **of the things about it was it had the most amazing view**  
3 **of the river.**

4 Q. Yes. Well, the Panel have been there, so we have some  
5 idea of the layout. Up to the left is up where the hill  
6 is ultimately, the Creggan?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And if you were going school, you would go up to the top  
9 of the picture?

10 **A. Yes. If we were going to school and eventually when we**  
11 **got there -- sorry.**

12 Q. What I am really trying to convey is the city is --

13 **A. The city is north of us.**

14 Q. -- to the sort of 2 o'clock on the picture there.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Isn't that right?

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

18 MS SMITH: Just looking at the photograph in the bottom  
19 left-hand corner, is that actually, in fact, the river?

20 **A. That's the -- that's the Letterkenny Road. The old**  
21 **railway track and the river is actually in the very**  
22 **bottom corner.**

23 Q. So if we could just magnify, please, where the red arrow  
24 is, that section again. Now the arrow is pointing  
25 towards Termonbacca, but, HIA 151 I am going to ask you to

1 describe the layout. I am going to ask you to describe  
2 externally and internally the layout.

3 **A. Okay.**

4 Q. You should have in front of you a copy of this document.

5 **A. I do, yes.**

6 Q. For the benefit of the Panel this is a sketch that was  
7 provided by another person, who is going to speak later  
8 in this module, an applicant, someone who has spoken to  
9 the Inquiry and given a witness statement. He in due  
10 course will prove this, but ...

11 You talk -- you talked there -- and just if I can  
12 ask you where the dormitories were. If you just -- in  
13 your own words, **HIA 151** can you just describe the layout as  
14 you see it there?

15 **A. Okay. I think the best way to describe Termonbacca is  
16 start from the front and move backwards.**

17 Q. Okay.

18 **A. So if you looked up the avenue, you had the big house.  
19 It was a Georgian house.**

20 Q. And that would --

21 **A. Sorry.**

22 Q. If the arrow could be moved.

23 **A. Okay. So, yes, it's ...**

24 Q. There seems to be -- we're looking at -- where the arrow  
25 is pointing now, it is pointing to a garden area. Is

1           that correct?

2   **A.**   **Yes.**   That would have been a vegetable garden at the  
3   point -- at that point, yes.   Just inside of that --  
4   I am just thinking.   Yes.   That's the -- where the --  
5   where the X is now, that's the nursery block.   Behind  
6   that that is the -- at the very front of the building is  
7   what would have been called the main house.   So that's  
8   the old Georgian house, and behind that then again was  
9   the -- wait still I see.   No, that's -- yes.   You can  
10  see a square here.   What that tiny square -- just where  
11  you are -- that's actually the main house, so it is.  
12  Yes, I got it now.   Sorry.   Okay.   That's the main  
13  house.   The first piece that we -- that the box was on,  
14  that's actually the garden.   That's the -- that was the  
15  nuns' garden.   Behind that on the left sticking out  
16  towards the bottom of the picture -- yes, there --  
17  that's the nursery block.   Directly behind that -- let's  
18  see.   No.   Just move back towards the top corner.   Yes.  
19  There's a -- you can see white roof.   Yes, there.   Just  
20  there.   That's the bathroom block.   Just to the left of  
21  that -- yes, just there -- that's the junior dormitory.  
22  You can actually see there three marks on the roof.  
23  Those three marks would delineate I suppose the  
24  classroom or the playroom -- I mean, the surface area of  
25  the playroom, and the dark piece behind that all the way

1 back there, that's the senior dormitory. So there are  
2 three distinct parts of that tin structure that was  
3 built in 1926. There is the junior dormitory; there's  
4 the playroom or classroom, as we called it for some  
5 reason; and the senior dormitory.

6 Q. Now there was evidence yesterday about boys being moved  
7 to tin huts.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Are they visible on this at all?

10 A. They are visible on it. In 1974 I think, long after I'd  
11 left, the plan was to demolish the junior dormitory,  
12 classroom and senior dormitory block, build a new  
13 structure on that, a modern structure on that, and while  
14 that happened over to the -- actually the very edge of  
15 the building structure on the picture, which would be  
16 top right, that's the area that was originally -- yes,  
17 up from that. Yes, there. That area would originally  
18 -- I mean to us -- what it had originally when I was  
19 there, that was where the cottage was. That was where  
20 the gardener lived and a couple of other members of  
21 staff lived. It is also where the chicken -- where the  
22 chicken coup -- chicken house was, because again, you  
23 know, eggs were -- I mean, you're up and down there.  
24 That's -- well, that's what that was. You can see  
25 actually on the very edge -- on the right of that

1 building that is actually the tin hut that the -- that  
2 was referred to yesterday that we can see. Yes. If you  
3 just move the cursor or I suppose -- you have an angle  
4 left from that. Just there, yes. So that's the --  
5 that's actually the tin hut that was referred to  
6 yesterday and the photographs that were put up  
7 yesterday, and the brick structure would be -- would be  
8 the structure just on the right of that.

9 Q. Yes. Just there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Thank you, **HIA 151** That is very helpful. Can I ask you  
12 just to take -- you have this document in front of you  
13 --

14 A. Yes, sure.

15 Q. -- which is SND-5735. We can call this up on the screen  
16 as well. We have actually blown it up to a larger size  
17 so that it's easier to read.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now this essentially is showing the internal layout of  
20 the buildings that you have just been pointing out in  
21 the photograph. Can I just ask you there, if we start  
22 at the right-hand side, there is the senior dormitory --

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. -- and you will see there's a washroom there.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What comment do you want to make about that?

2 A. I actually don't remember -- I remember at one point  
3 that door getting opened, but I don't know why it was  
4 opened, because it was never used. There were --  
5 I mean, I'm looking at it on the drawing there and it is  
6 just right back to me. There were wash-hand basins in  
7 there, but there wasn't -- there was no bath in there.  
8 There was no toilet in there. This is right -- this is  
9 on -- you know, it is accessible from the senior  
10 dormitory, but I always remember that door either being  
11 locked or nailed, and I don't know why.

12 Q. There is -- just on -- at the corner at the very bottom  
13 there there's toilets and it's described as a "lean-to".

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I'll come back to that in due course, but when boys did  
16 wet the bed, where did they -- where were they taken and  
17 what did they do?

18 A. In the morning what happened was you were actually  
19 taken -- yes, I am looking at it the same way as you.  
20 So if you went north on that to the door, across the  
21 classroom -- it is called the "playroom" in this -- you  
22 went down through the playroom. Then you'll see the  
23 marking "passage". Right down the passage, and almost  
24 at the bottom of the passage there is -- yes, at the  
25 bottom of the passage just beside what's called the

1        sewing room -- yes, the sewing room -- there's another  
2        passage and that leads down to the bathroom where there  
3        were -- and I remember there were two baths in it.

4                So what we're talking about is coming down here,  
5        down this -- we'll come back to the passage probably --  
6        down this -- it is actually marked out here "passage" --  
7        and that's the bathroom there. So you had to come all  
8        the way from the top of that block right down to the  
9        bottom, past the playroom, past the junior dormitory,  
10       past the music room, you know, right down and down to  
11       the bathroom, and it wasn't a -- it wasn't a comfortable  
12       walk in soaking wet pyjamas, if you still had them on,  
13       you know.

14    Q. Now whenever you did wet the bed, you were then bathed  
15       -- is that correct -- in that bathroom?

16    A. That's correct, yes.

17    Q. Can you describe what happened then?

18    A. Being taken and sheets with you. I don't remember  
19       having a sheet put over my head, but I do remember  
20       having a sheet over my shoulder, carrying the sheet with  
21       me -- and it was almost like, you know -- I mean, part  
22       of it was the shame of it really -- it was to let people  
23       know that you were a bed wetter -- down in the soaking  
24       wet pyjamas down into the bathroom where we stood in  
25       a line to get taking turns to go in and out of the two



1 bath, and the two baths -- you know, I mean, this would  
2 be something that could have taken -- it could have  
3 taken twenty minutes for ten, twelve kids, because we  
4 are not talking about luxury bath; we are actually  
5 talking about the equivalent of a sheep dip, and later  
6 that's exactly what it was. It was the equivalent of  
7 a sheep dip in a bath that may originally have started  
8 off either scalding hot, because the boiler had just  
9 come on, or freezing cold, because the boiler wasn't on,  
10 and into the water was poured from a gallon tin a black  
11 liquid that was Jeyes Fluid.

12 Q. You say in paragraph 10 of your statement, if we can  
13 just go back to that, please, at SND-1481, that -- this  
14 is where you are describing where the bed wetters were  
15 taken out, and you had to take your sheet and go to the  
16 bathroom. You describe the water, and you say that you  
17 remember being hit with a strap or belt just because you  
18 wet the bed, and it was all an attempt to embarrass and  
19 to humiliate the bed wetters. You cannot recall the  
20 identity of all the nuns who beat you for bedwetting,  
21 but one nun you name in that paragraph -- can we just  
22 scroll down a little bit, please -- is the first person  
23 you remember beating you for wetting the bed. You then  
24 describe how you now feel about using the bathroom.

25 You go on at paragraph 11 to say that it was the

1 nuns who treated you like this and not civilian  
2 employees. I will come back to the civilian employees.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Everyone was made to strip naked, so there was an issue  
5 with modesty. Everyone was handed a thing like  
6 a pillowcase with the bottom cut out of it with  
7 an elastic band around it. They called it a slip, but  
8 it was like a skirt. You had to put this on before  
9 getting into the bath. At times it would come off the  
10 guy who had just come out of the bath and it was handed  
11 to the next person. You talk about the Jeyes Fluid.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You then go on at paragraph 12 where you talk about:

14 "At times they used a scrubbing brush."

15 When you say "they", who was doing this, **HIA 151**

16 **A. It would have been the nun, and, I mean, when it came to**  
17 **actually the bathing part of it, some of the seniors**  
18 **would have been involved in that, because if you had one**  
19 **nun down there, it wouldn't have been enough to control**  
20 **-- it looked like to control two baths.**

21 So, yes, some of the seniors would actually have  
22 used either -- I remember a hand scrubbing brush, and  
23 sometimes it is awkward for people to figure out what  
24 a deck scrubber is, you know, but a deck scrubber is  
25 a hard scrubbing brush with a brush shaft on it, and

1 being pushed down in the bath with that deck scrubber.  
2 It was almost like you were unclean and this was the way  
3 of almost ritually cleansing you every day because you  
4 wet your bed.

5 There is a piece on that where it talks about the  
6 stinging -- you know, about actually the stinging of the  
7 Jeyes Fluid. Yes, your private parts stung, but after  
8 being beaten on the feet, strangely enough I actually  
9 felt more pain in my feet than I felt -- than I felt in  
10 the private parts of my body.

11 Q. You say again in that paragraph that if they were in  
12 a hurry, they would throw the towel at you and let you  
13 dry yourself and other times they would dry you. You  
14 say the towel looked like it had been steeped in cement  
15 and felt like sandpaper.

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. You say it also gave the opportunity to some of the  
18 bigger boys to beat you for having -- for them having to  
19 bathe you.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You say that in your case that went on for a period of  
22 five or six years.

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. I think you've already said to us that whenever -- even  
25 when you left Termonbacca, you still were wetting the

1 bed.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Now can you tell us is there anything you want to tell  
4 the Inquiry about the clothing you were provided with in  
5 Termonbacca?

6 **A. Well, again, I mean, I suppose the thing about it was if**  
7 **you were going to describe it, it would be classed as**  
8 **utilitarian more than anything else, you know. It**  
9 **certainly wasn't fashion. It was, you know, a lot of --**  
10 **some of it appeared to be mismatched and there were**  
11 **times when it appeared like there was a job lot of**  
12 **jumpers got somewhere and everybody got the same jumper,**  
13 **you know. I mean, I think the second photograph, if you**  
14 **go back, would actually show, you know -- I mean, I am**  
15 **not saying that it wasn't -- you know, it wasn't**  
16 **fashionable, but it certainly --**

17 Q. This is this photograph?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. That's SND-14... --

20 **A. Oh, that's your going out clothes. That's different.**

21 Q. Okay.

22 **A. The going out clothes are completely different than what**  
23 **you wore. I think maybe SND-14150 would have more than**  
24 **likely the type of clothing that we are talking about.**  
25 **That looks like summer clothing.**

1 Q. Can we just pull that up, please, SND-14150? This --

2 A. I think they now call them tank tops. I can't remember  
3 what we used to call them, but tank tops, and again that  
4 looks like the khaki shirts that were described. Again  
5 this was, you know -- even though this looks like it's  
6 a going out photograph as well, it sort -- it would be  
7 typical of what we wore. I am not saying we wore rags.  
8 What I am saying is, you know, that yes, we were clothed  
9 and I suppose at times made to feel lucky that we were.

10 Q. Certainly from that photograph the boys seem to be  
11 wearing shorts at all ages. Is that correct?

12 A. That's right, yes.

13 Q. What about food, HIA 151 in the home?

14 A. It was what was there. There seemed to be an awful lot  
15 of stew, an awful lot of toast, an awful lot of Echo  
16 margarine, very few -- I mean, I don't remember a tasty  
17 soup. You know -- and there are things to this day you  
18 can't get me to eat. If I don't cook it, I don't eat  
19 it, because I know what's in it.

20 I won't eat lamb or mutton at all because of --  
21 I mean, that's what we were actually raised on, mutton  
22 stew and mutton fatty meat. I can't stand the sight of  
23 fat on a plate. I wouldn't care if it is what kind of  
24 steak you want to give me. If you are going to cook it,  
25 you cut the fat off it first. Don't bring it out to me

1 with the fat still on. I don't want it. I don't eat  
2 fish at all, because fish on Fridays, and it just takes  
3 me back to where -- to where we were.

4 Now, you know, I think this is -- it was probably --  
5 yes, it would have been enough to keep you alive, but it  
6 certainly wasn't wholesome, and, you know, I mean, the  
7 one thing there appeared to be plenty of, because it  
8 was always brought up on a big wire tray, and we  
9 scrambled for it, especially after the nuns had left the  
10 dining room, we scrambled for the bread and we scrambled  
11 for the heels of the loaf of bread, because that might  
12 be all we get that day at the end of it.

13 Q. Can I ask about chores and work in Termonbacca? You  
14 talk about this in paragraph 13 again. You say that  
15 sometimes you were sent to pick potatoes. That is  
16 SND-1482, please.

17 A. Yes. Potatoes, turnips, cabbage, yes, all up on the  
18 farm.

19 Q. These were all grown on the farm at Termonbacca?

20 A. Yes, all grown on the farm.

21 Q. You had been talking in that paragraph about having to  
22 wear boots that were too small for you. For you it was  
23 easier to take them off.

24 A. It was easier to take them off and work in the field  
25 without the boots.

1 Q. You say that the nuns would take you there and then  
2 bring you back. They would come back. They would bring  
3 you lunch on the farm and then you would work from there  
4 in the morning until dusk. I take it this was in the  
5 summer holidays or the school holidays?

6 **A. I mean, I actually remember going up when they were**  
7 **planting, when they were putting seed potatoes in.**  
8 **I mean, it actually would have been any time between**  
9 **March and the end of August I'm supposing, which was**  
10 **I suppose the potato season. They talk about lunch**  
11 **there. I mean, I am not talking about a ploughman's**  
12 **lunch. I am talking about bread and jam and tea out of**  
13 **a big urn. That was it. That kept you going all day.**

14 Q. You say you were 9 or 10 when you were expected to do  
15 that work.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. What about any other work that was done in the home? In  
18 paragraph 17 you talk about the polishing.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You often had to work hard cleaning, or in the garden,  
21 or on the farm. You were expected to do these chores  
22 even from a very young age, 7 or 8 years old. You go on  
23 to describe that there was always cleaning to be done.  
24 They always seemed to put some of the senior boys in  
25 charge and they would give you brushing up or mopping up

1 chores to do, whatever needed done.

2 **A. Yes and, I mean, even if it didn't need done. It was**  
3 **almost that thing about, you know, the devil makes work**  
4 **for idle hands. So you had to be doing something. Yes.**  
5 **You know, again sometimes -- you know, a nun might**  
6 **actually turn round -- you know, they're going off to**  
7 **pray or whatever. So two seniors or maybe three seniors**  
8 **were actually allocated to make sure the classroom or**  
9 **the playroom was cleaned, mopped, polished. certainly**  
10 **that the corridor was mopped and polished, and I never**  
11 **remember one senior being responsible for that red**  
12 **corridor. It was always two.**

13 **Q. You talk about that red corridor. Perhaps if we could**  
14 **just have a look at laminated -- SND-5735. Can you**  
15 **indicate where that red corridor would have been?**

16 **A. The red corridor goes from the room that's called the**  
17 **playroom right down to the -- it says "passage" on it,**  
18 **all the way down to what was at one point called the**  
19 **beggar's porch. So it's the full -- it's the full**  
20 **length --**

21 **Q. Yes.**

22 **A. -- it's the full length of the junior dormitory, the**  
23 **piano room, the sewing room, the bathroom passage and**  
24 **the chapel.**

25 **Q. Can you now -- it may be difficult, but have you any**



1 idea of the length or width of that passage?

2 **A. Longer than this room is wide and wider -- no. Probably**  
3 **I would say 6, maybe 7, feet wide, because it was wide**  
4 **enough for four or five boys together to get on their**  
5 **knees to apply the polish to the floor, a row of four or**  
6 **five boys.**

7 Q. Thank you. One of the issues that has arisen from the  
8 evidence that we've heard from people is about the issue  
9 of numbering in the home. You in your -- you don't  
10 refer to this in your statement. Is that correct?

11 **A. I think I do.**

12 Q. Sorry.

13 **A. Sorry. I think I do at the start. It may -- if I**  
14 **didn't -- well, I suppose we are talking to the**  
15 **statement, but ...**

16 Q. Don't worry about that in any event.

17 **A. Okay.**

18 Q. I mean, we have heard evidence from boys, some of whom  
19 have said they were called by numbers --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- and the numbers were used in place of their names.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. One person said that he accepted what the congregation  
24 has said, which is that there was never a policy of  
25 using numbers for children; that children were called by

1 their christian name and that numbers were, in fact,  
2 sewn on to the clothing so that when items came back  
3 from the laundry, they were able to say "Number 2,  
4 here's your shirt" or whatever. What do you want to say  
5 to the Inquiry about that, HIA 151

6 A. I would contest that, and the only example I can give is  
7 I started in a class in school in 1964. There were 31  
8 pupils in that class. I can name them: [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] all the way through the --  
12 I remember all of their names. I spent four years with  
13 them.

14 I spent ten years with this group of boys, and when  
15 I came out of it, I didn't know two-thirds of them, but  
16 I could tell you what their numbers were, and the day we  
17 went to Stormont in 2009 a man walked over to me and he  
18 said, HIA 151 do you know who I am?" I looked at his face  
19 and I recognised his face and I said, "You were  
20 [REDACTED] and he said, "You were [REDACTED]

21 You know, that's the only thing I can say that makes  
22 our -- my truth stand up is that if I knew the names of  
23 every one of the boys in this photograph, you know --  
24 it's -- well, what I'm saying is that numbering was  
25 an issue. Numbering was an identity, and every now and

1           then, yes, you might have -- certainly I got [REDACTED]  
2           probably more times -- certainly more times than I got  
3           called "HIA 151" and probably as many times as I was called  
4           "boy" and just "boy", nothing else -- "Boy, come here"  
5           -- and more times than I was actually even called  
6           "       ".

7   Q.   Thank you. Do you recall special occasions in  
8       Termonbacca, things like Christmas, Hallowe'en,  
9       birthdays? What do you have to say about those? You  
10      talk at paragraph 7 I think about acts of kindness. You  
11      remember that there were Christmas parties organised for  
12      the boys.

13   A.   Yes.

14   Q.   In fact, if I can just ask that another photograph that  
15      you have brought to the Inquiry be called up, which is  
16      SND-14151. Now you yourself are not in this photograph,  
17      HIA 151 but you know what it is --

18   A.   Yes.

19   Q.   -- and I'm going to ask you to say what it is in  
20      a moment. We will come back to why you believe you are  
21      not in that particular photograph, but what can you tell  
22      us about this photograph?

23   A.   That photograph has at the back of it a man called --  
24      standing up at the back is a man called [REDACTED] who  
25      was the manager of the [REDACTED] in Derry, and every

1 Christmas they would put on a show for us. We went to  
2 the pictures, and they'd have a party with, you know,  
3 sweets and lemonade and stuff like that, and you can see  
4 here -- I was just going to say -- even now I am just  
5 noticing the Christmas crackers.

6 There was a lot of kindness from a lot of people,  
7 you know, and, to be fair, [REDACTED] certainly was one  
8 of them. I would say members of the St. Vincent de  
9 Paul, but I would also mention the girls from the city  
10 factory and from the shirt factories around -- around  
11 the city, guys from the post office who gathered their  
12 own money and actually bought -- sadly he is now  
13 deceased, [REDACTED] who bought Gaelic football  
14 outfits, rigs for us, the men from the BSR who funded  
15 both the Christmas party and a day out in the summer,  
16 the Royal Navy, who took us to Sea Eagle, the Army, who  
17 took us down to Duncreggan camp, and strangely enough of  
18 all of the places and the Royal Air Force, who had  
19 a Christmas party in [REDACTED] for us, and that was  
20 just so strange for me.

21 Q. Yes. Perhaps it hasn't become clear, but your father  
22 had been stationed at [REDACTED]

23 A. My father was stationed at [REDACTED] and was actually  
24 knocked down on his way on to [REDACTED] on  
25 13th October 1955. So it was in some way ironic that we

1 end up going back and visiting there.

2 I just want to say this. Because we were told we  
3 couldn't mention anything from Termonbacca, I couldn't  
4 actually -- even when they took us out to the plane and  
5 let us into the plane -- my father had been [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]. He  
7 was -- they were on anti-submarine patrol. He was  
8 rescued and taken to [REDACTED]. This was  
9 something that, you know, became really, really  
10 important to me. Now here I was in the same type of  
11 plane. I wanted to tell somebody that. We were warned  
12 not to talk about anything that came from Termonbacca.  
13 So ...

14 Q. In paragraph 28 you also talk about being invited to  
15 Christmas parties and that you were wearing your good  
16 clothes, washed behind your ears. Your neck and  
17 fingernails were checked before you went out.

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. You say there was Brylcreem put in your hair. We will  
20 come back to just what happened about that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But can I just ask about -- you have mentioned day  
23 trips. Do you recall ever getting any pocket money when  
24 you were in the home?

25 A. I remember at the -- I think coming close to the time --

1 it would have been in the early 1960s going into what  
2 was then the nun's cell, and there was a pile of pennies  
3 and a pile of thruppenny bits and pile of sixpences and  
4 a pile of shillings, and I don't remember anything  
5 bigger than a shilling, so I don't, and actually the --  
6 for some reason I knew people got the shilling. I never  
7 got the shilling. I got the pennies, and part of it  
8 was, you know, there were penalties involved through a  
9 week and, you know, if you didn't do something or if  
10 something -- you know, you got penalised and almost  
11 fined. Out of the shilling came the fine, you know. So  
12 I think probably the most I got were the six big brass  
13 pennies, you know, or copper pennies.

14 Q. What did you use this pocket money for?

15 A. We at a point -- then I think probably at 11 years of  
16 age -- in fact, more than likely 11 years of age -- were  
17 allowed to go down town and spend the pocket money. So  
18 we -- you know, we went in threes and fours down into  
19 the town.

20 I remember one day actually going to the St.  
21 Columb's Hall. There was a film on in St. Columb's  
22 Hall, and everybody else wanted to go to Woolworths, and  
23 I wanted to go to the cinema. So I got split from the  
24 group and eventually made my way back after the film  
25 about -- it was actually dark in the evening going back,

1 and because now -- there is that crazy thing about the  
2 police were looking for me apparently. That's what  
3 I was told. That's the reason why I got beaten was  
4 because I wanted to go to the cinema and didn't want to  
5 go to the shop. It cost sixpence to get into the  
6 cinema. So I spent the whole six big copper pennies  
7 getting into the cinema.

8 Q. It doesn't really matter, but do you remember what it  
9 was you saw?

10 A. I think it was a Roy Rogers' movie, a cowboy film, yes,  
11 white horses and black hats.

12 Q. Can you recall did anything ever happen on your birthday  
13 in the home?

14 A. I think my 11th birthday I got -- I got a birthday card,  
15 the only one I'd at that point ever got, and it was  
16 brought in and handed to me, and I remember it was  
17 already opened, and it was a card and that was it. It  
18 just said "Happy birthday". It was mum. That was it.

19 Q. So that was from your mother?

20 A. And that was it, yes.

21 Q. What about -- some of the evidence has been there was  
22 a special breakfast for boys on their birthday. Do you  
23 have any recollection of that?

24 A. Again I'm just thinking about that day that I got the  
25 card. So that day that I got -- I didn't know I had

1 a birthday. I didn't know when a birthday was, but that  
2 day that I got a card -- that I got the card, I remember  
3 being asked to go down to the kitchen. Again I thought  
4 I was going down to the kitchen to work or something, to  
5 do something, and I remember the fried egg and bacon and  
6 a sausage, because when I came up, the plate actually  
7 dropped and smashed on the red polished floor and I got  
8 a clip around the ear for it, for dropping the plate and  
9 the -- it actually wasn't breakfast; it was later in the  
10 evening -- it was later in the afternoon -- I got a clip  
11 around the ear for breaking a plate.

12 Q. You talk at paragraph 24 in your statement about boys  
13 going to Australia --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and you there talk about that prior to you being  
16 admitted to Termonbacca that you had been involved in  
17 a house fire and as a result you have still today got  
18 some scarring on your face as a result of that.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You feel that -- you actually have a recollection of  
21 boys going to Australia or some discussion of Australia?

22 A. Yes, I'm sure I do, you know, and that sort of line, and  
23 it looked like a selection line, and the crazy thing  
24 about it was we never actually got to the front of the  
25 house, so the reception area just inside the front door



1 of Termonbacca, which -- yes. It's here. Yes. There  
2 is a reception area there. I think I was actually in it  
3 three times -- three times in all the time I was in  
4 Termonbacca.

5 I remember going up there for some reason and there  
6 were people standing sort of almost like feeling -- you  
7 know, sort of big strong -- that's what it looked like,  
8 you know, and this is again -- I think at that point  
9 I would have been about 7, and I can't remember why  
10 I was up, because the one sure thing was that ugly guys  
11 never got selected for anything, and that's just the way  
12 it was, you know, and, you know, even to be an altar  
13 boy, you know, they had to be really, really stuck for  
14 an altar boy to get somebody that didn't look right  
15 being an altar boy, you know. I suppose the other --  
16 the only other thing would have been maybe, yes, the  
17 choir would have been great, because you could be stuck  
18 at the back and it's fine. It's another voice.

19 Q. Just talking about that, you were in the choir. Is that  
20 correct?

21 A. I was, yes.

22 Q. Music was a big feature in --

23 A. Yes. We had -- we had the choir and we had -- I mean,  
24 some of the -- when I was younger and I was at the  
25 primary school, **SND 130** would have taught us some of

1 the hymns that we would have had for mass. She also  
2 taught some of the songs. I mean, for some strange  
3 reason I always associate -- and it is not about  
4 politics -- I always associate Catholic primary  
5 education with nationalism, because the first song  
6 I ever learned was "The minstrel boy to the war has  
7 gone".

8 Q. Can I just go back for a moment, **HIA 151** to bed wetting?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say that you were always hit. Were you always hit  
11 for bedwetting or was it just on occasions?

12 A. No, my recollection is it was every time. It was  
13 ritual. It was part of the deal. It was as frequent as  
14 the bath was going to be, and, I mean, I still have this  
15 image in my head of people -- it just sounds crazy --  
16 the swish of the belt and people trying to jump in front  
17 of the speed of the belt so it looked like they got hit  
18 but they didn't, but it never happened. You know, they  
19 realised, and it was a nun and nuns through that period.  
20 If they felt that they missed you, they didn't miss you  
21 the second time.

22 Q. So was every boy then who wet the bed hit?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You also, when you were talking about bed wetting, you  
25 talked about civilian workers in the home.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who do you remember as a civilian worker in the home?

3 A. Just I mean the man -- I mean, for us he was the  
4 gardener. His name was SND15. He was a man that always  
5 seemed to have a smile. Yet he always seemed to have  
6 his head down, because he was always working. **SND 15**  
7 job was to keep that front garden immaculate and he did.  
8 He washed the statues. He clipped -- he actually had  
9 a small pair of scissors that he clipped the lawn and  
10 the garden with after the shears and everything had  
11 gone. He was a man you wouldn't want to cross. He was  
12 a funny man. He had fists like shovels, and if **SND 15**  
13 decided that you were out of line and **SND 15** decided he  
14 was going to give you a clip, it wasn't done with malice  
15 I don't think. It wasn't done out of anger. It was,  
16 you know, "If I do this, you will not do -- you will  
17 remember not to do that again". It was the equivalent  
18 of a smack. I actually got a few from him. I didn't  
19 object to it, because you knew that **SND 15** was always  
20 going to be there, and, you know, **SND 15** would have  
21 been, even in later years, a man that I had a lot of  
22 time for.

23 There was a handyman I suppose and I think -- yes,  
24 there was a handyman, and there was a guy that we called  
25 the farmer, who drove the tractor. I mean, I think

1 I have already mentioned who his name was. His name was  
2 [REDACTED] and he drove the tractor, and actually after  
3 I left Termonbacca [REDACTED] had an accident on the farm and  
4 fell off the side of the tractor and went under the  
5 wheel and actually lost one of his legs.

6 Q. What about inside? I mean, **SND 15** worked outside. [REDACTED]  
7 worked outside.

8 A. They all worked outside. Inside I don't remember any  
9 civilian workers in Termonbacca.

10 Q. Now did you during your time there ever see anyone from  
11 Social Services visit the home?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Or any senior nuns? Have you any recollection of any  
14 visits by them?

15 A. I remember one time there was a mention of -- I think  
16 was it a Mother Superior, but I never saw her. I think  
17 the whole thing was about again why would she see me?  
18 The ugly guys were kept at the back. So anybody who was  
19 going to see her would have been brought into the main  
20 house. So I never saw her and I definitely never saw  
21 anybody from Social Services.

22 Q. Do you ever remember anybody else visiting the home at  
23 any time?

24 A. I remember the St. Vincent de Paul used to come on  
25 a Sunday. and there was a wee man, who again was a funny

1 man and he told lots of stories. I mean, I remember him  
2 telling the sort of stories that I would later end up  
3 reading, like "The Black Witch of Strabane" and all of  
4 these. I mean, he told all of his stories. Amazing  
5 storyteller. His name was **SND 182** He smoked  
6 a pipe and he done magic. I remember he done magic.

7 **SND 182** a guy -- I think he had a younger brother  
8 called **[REDACTED]** who drove a very, very shiny car; and  
9 a man called **[REDACTED]** who was involved with the --  
10 with the St. Vincent de Paul, but he also was a trade  
11 union representative, **[REDACTED]** a man called  
12 **[REDACTED]** a music teacher called **[REDACTED]** who again was  
13 amazing, and later became -- later was to become one of  
14 my music teachers in school; a man called **[REDACTED]**  
15 **[REDACTED]** who came and coached us on sort of theatre  
16 production and stuff. In fact, I still see **[REDACTED]** So  
17 he would have done the Christmas play and stuff like  
18 that. Yes. A couple of women came up from the -- you  
19 know, from the Confraternity; **[REDACTED]** as I said, big  
20 Cork man, a big Free State accent, and he was a hurler.  
21 Cork is the country for it, you know.

22 Q. There were plenty of people that came up?

23 A. There were people who came in, yes. I mean, **[REDACTED]**  
24 again the reason why I remember **[REDACTED]** was when we went  
25 down on to -- and there is another picture of boys

1 playing down in a field -- when we went down on to that  
2 field to play, you know, it was literally just to kick  
3 a ball about or whatever it was, and [REDACTED] and the  
4 guys from the Post Office who had funded a Christmas  
5 party for us decided that we needed a bit more activity.  
6 So their idea was that they would buy the footballs.  
7 They would buy the Gaelic football rig.

8 His great pride was first of all down in Celtic Park  
9 when we had -- [REDACTED] and himself got together  
10 and we put together a quiz team to take on the Christian  
11 Brothers and wiped the floor with them. That was okay,  
12 but then when we took on the college and beat them 17:3  
13 in a game of Gaelic, a priest called [REDACTED] **SND 327**  
14 wasn't in the least amused.

15 So, yes, you know, I mean -- and I think this was  
16 all at the inspiration of people who had come in from  
17 outside --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- but the one other thing I did want to get, yes, we  
20 did have dignitaries. I mean, the city's two  
21 dignitaries came to see us. The bishop, SND131, came at  
22 Christmas, and he sat in a big chair right in front of  
23 us while we performed the play, and sitting beside him  
24 -- and again this is not about -- this is not about the  
25 politics, but it's the reality -- was the -- was the

1 mayor of the city, who I didn't know then but I later  
2 was to learn was a Unionist mayor, and the politics of  
3 that were something that were -- that actual situation  
4 was something that was to impact on my life, on the rest  
5 of my life from the point where I was 17 years of age,  
6 because here we were entertaining the bishop and the  
7 mayor of the city. You know, we were classed as  
8 orphans. They are up there out of some kind of pity to  
9 us, and the mayor of Derry was the man actually  
10 responsible for the allocation and the building of  
11 housing in Derry. In a city that had a 70% Catholic  
12 majority the council had a Unionist majority on the  
13 council. The mayor was responsible for building houses,  
14 and how they maintained that majority was, "If we don't  
15 build houses for Catholics, Catholics won't get votes".  
16 You had to have a house to get a vote, and what happened  
17 was I spent ten years in a boys' home not because my  
18 mother didn't love me, but because the political  
19 situation particularly in Derry meant to give a Catholic  
20 a house meant to give them a vote, and they weren't  
21 building houses for Catholics, and that's why I spent  
22 ten years in Termonbacca.

23 Q. **HIA 151** can I just come back to some of the specific  
24 allegations --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- that you make in your statement? At paragraph 17  
2 when you were talking about working hard on the farm or  
3 cleaning, you talk about supervision by the older boys  
4 --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and beatings from about the age of 7 or 8 from the  
7 older boys. You say they would have started then.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. They showed absolutely no mercy to anyone. You were  
10 getting kicked for not doing something, getting kicked  
11 for lying down because you were kicked and getting  
12 kicked because you couldn't get up because you were  
13 kicked, getting punched because you were crying and  
14 getting punched because you wouldn't cry, and you didn't  
15 ever complain about any of these feelings to anyone,  
16 because it was accepted as part of the life in  
17 Termonbacca. Is that correct?

18 **A. Yes, and the other thing was who do you complain to?**  
19 **There wasn't an independent authority you could have**  
20 **complained to. We never got out of Termonbacca to tell**  
21 **anybody, and your fear was if we did tell somebody, that**  
22 **word would get back that we -- you know, that we'd gone**  
23 **and we'd told somebody about getting punched or kicked**  
24 **or whatever and who did it, and you would just**  
25 **line yourself up for another kicking.**



1 Q. You then go on at paragraph 25 where you describe  
2 a particular incident involving an attempt on your part  
3 to read a newspaper.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You talk about a nun, who you name in that, and you say  
6 that she seemed to hate you and pick on you, and that  
7 you -- although you can't remember if she was the  
8 particular nun who this occasion punched you on the back  
9 of the neck from behind when you were trying to read the  
10 newspaper, that you fell on the floor and you got kicked  
11 under the table for being a thief, because the  
12 allegation was that you were trying to steal a newspaper  
13 rather than just read it.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You say that when you moved into the senior dormitory,  
16 there were -- you continued to get beatings from older  
17 boys.

18 At paragraph 27 you relate a particular incident  
19 involving the nun whom you have already named.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You say that she used to have a type of towel roller  
22 where she would take the towel off the rail, which was  
23 a wooden rod, and use the rail to hit you on the top of  
24 your head. On one occasion you recall there must have  
25 been ten boys actually screaming behind you in the

1 kitchen, because she couldn't get enough room to get at  
2 you. You think you were about 9 or 10 at the time. She  
3 reached down to grab you and pull you up again, because  
4 you wouldn't get up, she beat you again with a wooden  
5 towel rail, and then you were sent back to the dormitory  
6 without anything to eat.

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

8 Q. You say that as a result of that, in the following  
9 paragraph, you feel that she must have -- at one stage  
10 when you were getting Brylcreem put on your head for  
11 a Christmas party that by putting the Brylcreem on your  
12 head, that must have put pressure on a certain part of  
13 your skull. You ended up concussed and were taken to  
14 Altnagelvin Hospital where you received treatment and  
15 medicine.

16 **A. That's correct.**

17 Q. You say you were kept in hospital from 13th to 22nd  
18 January.

19 **A. I think it -- I think it's -- the period actually -- it  
20 may have been longer. In fact, I think it was longer,  
21 and I was kept in the hospital, and then I was out from  
22 the hospital, and the ambulance came every day to  
23 Termonbacca to pick me up at 10 o'clock in the morning.  
24 I remember the snow on the ground when the ambulance  
25 came, being taken to Altnagelvin, and every day a doctor**

1 would stick something like a 6 inch syringe in the top  
2 of my head to drain off the blood that was -- that had  
3 caused the swelling on my head that the nun detected  
4 when she was putting the Brylcreem on.

5 So, I mean, later -- from discussion with my own  
6 doctor very recently what he said was it was a subdural  
7 haematoma.

8 Q. As a result of that that -- we have seen the photograph  
9 the Christmas party --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- and you believe that that was around the time that  
12 you sustained this injury --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- and that's why you are not in that photograph. Is  
15 that correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now you talk about -- paragraph 34 -- about the  
18 belittling that went on in the home. You say that  
19 because you had the scar on your face, that that made  
20 you less than anyone else, and that you were kept back  
21 and nobody needed to see you, and that whittled down  
22 your spirit, as you say, over time. You felt that that  
23 had an effect on you. Is there anything you want to say  
24 about things that were said to you in the home?

25 A. Well, you know, that sort of process of selection again,

1 you know, was like -- I mean, as I said, you know, the  
2 good looking ones got picked. Part of it was, yes,  
3 okay, if they were going out to a farm to work or  
4 something, I mean, it was no different than being where  
5 we were anyway, and part of me actually got used to  
6 being around people who would have been described as the  
7 same as me, people who weren't in the more noticeable  
8 bracket that you'd put to the front row. Some of the  
9 guys I could name. You know, particularly among them  
10 would be **SND 3** There's a few of the other guys that  
11 -- we almost seemed to be, you know, "No, don't bring  
12 them out". You know, "Keep them back".

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. But, yes, I think at that point I did become very, very  
15 conscious of the fact that in one way I was different  
16 and my way of dealing with that was okay, if they are  
17 going to leave me alone, this is the chance to read.  
18 This is the chance, you know, to just pick up something  
19 and just shut everything else out, and that's what  
20 I ended up doing.

21 Q. Now, **HIA 151** I'm going to take you now to a specific  
22 allegation that you have never disclosed publicly before  
23 and that's at paragraph 29 in your witness statement.  
24 This is where you describe when you moved to the senior  
25 part of the boys' home, you began to become aware that

1 other things were happening. Going to sleep at night  
2 you would hear footsteps coming up through the rows of  
3 beds and you could hear boys at times whimpering or  
4 getting punched, and you would say to yourself, "Just  
5 pretend you are not here".

6 You describe -- we have seen on the sketch map the  
7 layout and there was a small toilet block at one corner  
8 described as a lean-to --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- on that sketch map. You slept near that.

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

12 Q. You remember this one occasion when your blankets were  
13 pulled back and you were taken from your bed and forced  
14 into that toilet block by what you describe as one of  
15 the senior boys whom you name in that. You go on to  
16 describe what happened in that toilet block in detail.  
17 You say that you were 10 at the time and that the boy  
18 was probably you thought 16 or 17, although you thought  
19 he was much older. You describe on another occasion  
20 what that person tried to do to you, and you didn't tell  
21 anybody about it. You have lived with that, and the  
22 first time that you have spoken about this is when you  
23 have spoken to the Inquiry about it. Is that correct?

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. Now I'm going to ask you to look at a photograph you

1 have already looked at, **HIA 151**--

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and that is photograph SND-15150 (sic).

4 **A. 14150, yes, I think.**

5 Q. Could that just be pulled up, please? Now you have  
6 I think pointed yourself out in that photograph, **HIA 151**

7 **A. Yes, I have, yes.**

8 Q. The person who you say took you into the toilet and  
9 carried out those acts on you, he is also seen in that  
10 photograph. Is that correct?

11 **A. He is.**

12 Q. And could you just indicate the location of where he is?

13 **A. If it's on the screen -- can I just mark it on the --**

14 Q. Perhaps it might be better to mark it and then we can  
15 show it to the Panel and to the other lawyers. That  
16 might be preferable way of deal with it.

17 **A. (Marked.) I am on the left of the nun that's on the  
18 right of the picture. There's a nun on the right of the  
19 picture. There's a guy -- oh, sorry. Sorry.**

20 Q. You have marked where --

21 **A. Yes, I have marked where the other guy is. I am just  
22 saying where I am in this just in case you couldn't find  
23 me.**

24 Q. Just to be sure.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Yes. You are sort of straining to look up above --

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

3 Q. -- other people -- is that correct --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- in between the second and third nun, if we can put it  
6 that way?

7 **A. That's right, yes, almost in the middle of those two  
8 nuns. That's me.**

9 Q. There's the arrow pointing to -- just --

10 **A. Just to the right of that. That's me, yes.**

11 Q. Thank you, **HIA 151**

12 Now during your time in Termonbacca do you ever  
13 remember any improvements or any changes of any sort in  
14 the time that you were there?

15 **A. I would say actually not very long after I had had this  
16 incident with the towel rail, I think in -- yes, it  
17 would have been 1963 -- yes, it was, because I actually  
18 remember the Kennedy assassination and I remember the  
19 Cuban missile crisis, which was the reason why I got  
20 beaten under the table, and after that there was a young  
21 nun came in dressed in white. I mean, I think -- now  
22 I would say she was a novice. I'm not sure if she would  
23 actually -- I don't know if you actually become  
24 qualified nuns or whatever. I mean, when she came in,  
25 my impression of her was that -- at that point the one**

1 relief was that the nun that I knew as -- I don't  
2 know -- I mean, it would have been Sister Margaret --  
3 was now gone. That was the first relief.

4 The second was that this young nun seemed to bring  
5 a different vibrancy about the place. I think at that  
6 point maybe just the attitude changed. Maybe there were  
7 just changes.

8 I think one of the other things -- again it is 1963,  
9 so we are talking about Vatican II, and, you know, there  
10 is a lot of other stuff going on then. I actually  
11 remember -- it is not that I am looking back now and  
12 saying 1963 was -- I mean, I actually remember Vatican  
13 II in 1963. So there were changes. There seemed to be  
14 a greater lay involvement in Termonbacca.

15 The living situation didn't change and didn't change  
16 for ten years -- I mean, over ten years after I had  
17 left, but I think there was a different kind of  
18 an attitude about the place, and I would say yes, that's  
19 back as far as 1963, but we still had two years while  
20 I was there, and there were still beatings, although  
21 they weren't as frequent. The seniors still had all of  
22 the power that they had previously. That didn't change.

23 I actually remember being put outside in -- yes, it  
24 was 1963 -- Hurricane Debbie, actually being put outside  
25 just as the storm was coming in for some silly thing,



1       you know, and actually, I mean, watching the storm do  
2       some of the damage that it was doing before eventually  
3       being brought back in. So ...

4             But, I mean, inside I think, yes, things changed.  
5       I~remember we -- for some strange reason we got  
6       different crockery, blue melamine cups -- I think you  
7       call it Bakelite now, but I remember that -- with actual  
8       saucers. You know, some things were changing, but the  
9       power certainly of the -- of the seniors was -- was  
10      still there, and the staffing level didn't really seem  
11      to change, although it seemed that there was a bit more  
12      care.

13            I know at that point the music was certainly  
14      something. It was with SND203 we took off. I remember  
15      at one point Dana's father coming in and bringing Dana  
16      with him as a young girl of 8 or 9 and singing the most  
17      beautiful version of "Scarlet Ribbons" that I'd ever  
18      heard.

19    Q.    The nun that you refer to, the young nun that you recall  
20      coming in, do you recall her name?

21    A.    Yes, I do. Her name was SR2.

22    Q.    Now you will be aware that some boys have complained  
23      about SR2, but you have no complaints about --

24    A.    You know, I would say, I mean, there was discipline but  
25      certainly not -- nowhere like the level of discipline --

1 nothing like what happened before. If you got a smack,  
2 you got a smack, and, to be honest, I would say in my  
3 case in most cases, yes, it would have been sort of well  
4 deserved, but, you know, I mean, I have absolutely no --  
5 and I know everybody is different but I am not here to  
6 talk for other people. My truth is that I actually  
7 believe SR2 treated me quite fairly and I would say that  
8 with her influence some of the other things softened as  
9 well.

10 Q. Thank you, **HIA 151** Can I just ask you -- you talked about  
11 the older boys. Did you yourself become an older boy or  
12 a supervisor at any point?

13 A. I can't imagine that it happened, because again I was  
14 13 years of age when I left there, and it's a bit young  
15 to have been -- you know, to have been put in any sort  
16 of position. There may have been a point where maybe as  
17 a nun was leaving a room and, you know, somebody had to  
18 sort of make sure -- you know, "You look after this 'til  
19 I come back," but it wasn't like sort of being given  
20 a monitor's job or prefect's job. More I think it more  
21 or less meant that, "You look after this 'til I come  
22 back, or else if it's not looked after, you're for it",  
23 but no, you know, I mean I don't remember any sort of  
24 particular task that was given to me that would have  
25 left me in any sort of supervisory role at 13 years of

1           **age, no.**

2       Q.   Can you make any comment on the fact that it was -- it's  
3           been suggested by someone whose evidence has been given  
4           to the Inquiry that older boys who, in fact, bullied  
5           younger boys in the home would then act as their  
6           protectors when they were out in school?

7       A.   **Yes. I think it was that thing about looking after your**  
8           **own. You know, much as -- it happens in families. You**  
9           **know, it's -- I am not actually making it -- well,**  
10          **I suppose I am. You know, it is that thing about "He's**  
11          **one of ours" and much as -- you know, "I can do whatever**  
12          **I want to him, but don't you dare put your hand on him".**  
13          **Yes, you know, I mean, there was that thing.**

14                **Again, you know, I mean we are talking about a city**  
15                **back in the '60s that had certainly a very, very**  
16                **hierarchical approach as to where things belonged, and**  
17                **right at the very bottom of the heap, underneath the**  
18                **people from the Creggan, and underneath them people from**  
19                **Springtown, and underneath them members of the**  
20                **travelling community, right at the very bottom of that**  
21                **were the home boys, and that's where a lot of people**  
22                **sort of would have put us, you know.**

23       Q.   **HIA 151** can I ask you to look at another document? This is  
24           SND-1497. Now this is a document that has been  
25           extracted from a register held by the Sisters of

1 Nazareth, and you will see that your reference, HIA151,  
2 is there, as are the reference to your brother. You  
3 were here when he gave his evidence, and it shows there  
4 the date of admission, date of discharge, age on  
5 discharge, and it says:

6 "These boys were taken by their mother, who has  
7 a house in Creggan, Derry."

8 That would have been in 1965, when your mother was  
9 able to get the home in Derry, and she took her children  
10 back there.

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

12 Q. We have heard from your brother about that and the  
13 difficulties he had experienced. Can I ask you, first  
14 of all, how you found it to leave Termonbacca?

15 **A. It was a strange environment to end up in. My only  
16 contact with the outside world was on that walk up to  
17 school and back again or, as I said, you know, on  
18 a couple of occasions we managed to get down the town to  
19 the cinema -- in my case the cinema or to one of the  
20 shops.**

21 That was a world out there I knew nothing about. My  
22 feelings of actually leaving Termonbacca were mixed, and  
23 I remember now -- and I've thought about it often --  
24 walking down that avenue, the three of us together,  
25 three brothers, that weren't connected in any way, and

1 coming to the gates and at that -- they used to lock the  
2 gates at night, but it was afternoon, so the gate is  
3 open.

4 My mother never came to collect us. We were shown  
5 where -- I think my older brother was actually shown  
6 where the house was. So he was going to lead us up  
7 there, and coming out the gate I actually stopped, and  
8 I had a lump in my throat, because much as this place  
9 had been everything that it had been to me and  
10 absolutely very, very few -- you know, at that point I'm  
11 thinking about the sadness and the tragedy that it was.  
12 I had a lump in my throat when I left it, because this  
13 was the only home that I'd known. The only people that  
14 I'd really known, the only friends I'd ever made were in  
15 this place, and I'm coming out and leaving them behind,  
16 and it -- I mean, I can actually feel it now -- because  
17 it was all I ever knew and -- but I turned to my two  
18 brothers and I said to them, you know, "I am 13 years of  
19 age and from this day on nobody is ever going to get to  
20 put their boot in the back of my neck again", and  
21 I think that changed my whole attitude to Termonbacca.

22 It didn't change my loyalty to the people that  
23 I'd left behind there who were friends of mine. It  
24 actually didn't change I suppose in a way the on/off  
25 care and whatever for -- for the nuns that had been good

1 to me, but certainly the bitterness of what had been bad  
2 to me didn't leave me. It was a long time before it  
3 would.

4 Q. In this document that's just before you it says:

5 "1966. Visits every Sunday."

6 It is not clear from that as to whom that refers,  
7 but did you visit Termonbacca?

8 A. I did visit. I didn't visit every Sunday. I mean,  
9 these were the only friends I had had at that point.  
10 I had been in my secondary school at that point for less  
11 than a year. I had some difficulty originally making  
12 friends. It was only when I started playing basketball  
13 and became involved in cross-country running that I was  
14 to meet friends who would be lifelong friends. Before  
15 that I mean what we are talking about is the only  
16 friends and the only family I really had were in  
17 Termonbacca.

18 So, yes, of course I was going to go back, but  
19 I wasn't back every Sunday. I went back just to see  
20 and, you know, just to -- not to lose touch with what  
21 I had considered to be the only family that I had and at  
22 the expense of my two brothers.

23 Q. It says there in that you were going to Manchester  
24 University to do teacher training.

25 "For the past two years [REDACTED] HIA 151 has gone to night

1 classes and got his 'O' levels."

2 Now that was not something that you told the nuns.

3 Is that correct?

4 **A. No, it wasn't. It may have been something my brother**  
5 **may have told them. Yes, I was going to night classes.**  
6 **I actually ended up going to a course in Cambridge that**  
7 **lasted three months, and I came back and I went straight**  
8 **into a foundation studies course at Magee in Derry.**

9 Q. So there is also another entry here to say that you  
10 visited in 1980. I'll come back to that entry, but you  
11 did go back in 1980. Isn't that correct?

12 **A. Yes, I'm saying that's true.**

13 Q. And you talk about this in paragraph 31 of your witness  
14 statement. You say you went back in 1980 and you  
15 essentially went back for a specific reason at that  
16 time. Isn't that so?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You there met SND15, and he told you that you weren't  
19 the first person to have come back.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You had a discussion about the person who you say abused  
22 you --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- there, and as a result of your conversation with  
25 SND15 you didn't do what you had intended to do.

1 A. That's right. I was still angry, and I think I remember  
2 this conversation actually took place as I got up the  
3 driveway, which was now tarmacked, you know, outside of  
4 the big Georgian house, and when I got up the driveway  
5 and actually walked up the driveway, **SND 15** I believe  
6 saw me coming up the drive -- up what we called the  
7 avenue, and **SND 15** got up to the top gate before I got  
8 as far as it.

9 He called me and he said, **HIA 151** what are you doing?"  
10 and I knew that he knew by the look on my face that  
11 I wasn't there on a social visit. He took me a wee walk  
12 up the steps toward the cottage and he I think the best  
13 way to put it was talked some sense into me, and when we  
14 came down the steps, I was still angry, but out of  
15 respect for **SND 15** I decided to leave it.

16 I know when we came to the bottom of the steps that  
17 there was a nun -- and I can't remember who it was --  
18 actually at the front door of Termonbacca who seen me  
19 come down. She didn't call me and she didn't ask me  
20 what I was doing there, and I walked back down the  
21 avenue, and from that day until the day I made the  
22 statement to the Inquiry all of that I haven't -- that  
23 particular incident and what led to that particular  
24 incident has never been discussed by me.

25 Q. Now in -- just taking you back to the document that's on



1 the screen, it says that you visited in 1980 and then  
2 there's another comment which says:

3 "Wouldn't be too sure of him?"

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. I just want to point that out to you, **HIA 151** because  
6 whenever you were given information by the Sisters of  
7 Nazareth, that comment did not appear in the document  
8 that you received --

9 **A. That's true. That's the first time I've seen it, yes.**

10 Q. -- which is SND-1502. SND-1503. Would you put up  
11 SND-1503? You will see there just at the end of that  
12 first paragraph --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- it says:

15 "1980. HIA151 visited."

16 **A. Yes. The comment is taken off, yes.**

17 Q. Is there anything you want to say about that?

18 **A. Maybe it's -- again, you know, I am not surprised that**  
19 **there have been some edits and I wouldn't expect --**  
20 **again I can only talk for the evidence that I have had**  
21 **-- that it wouldn't be the first piece of editing that**  
22 **took place, but, I mean, that's taken out maybe so they**  
23 **wouldn't appear to have judged me on that particular**  
24 **occasion, but again I have probably no doubt that after**  
25 **I went down the driveway **SND 15** was called and asked why**

1 I was there, and I think that's why the comment that  
2 appeared in -- at this point I am actually quite glad  
3 that comment is there, because it meant that **SND 15** had  
4 actually passed on what I had said to him. That's my  
5 impression.

6 Q. That's your impression of that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, **HIA 151** after you left you indicated you went to live  
9 with your family and we have established that you got  
10 yourself an education --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- and you moved on in the world. You discovered  
13 a sister that you didn't know that you had. Is that  
14 correct?

15 A. That's correct. We have been at the Nazareth House  
16 School and -- in primary school. So it would have --  
17 I actually think we went from -- it was a nursery  
18 school. So I would have been there from I was 5 until I  
19 was I would say 7. I made my first communion when I was  
20 at Bridge Street School, because **[REDACTED]** whose  
21 funeral I attended at the great age of 94 years of age,  
22 was our -- was our teacher, and so that's where I made  
23 my first communion. So between 5 and 7 I had been at  
24 the Nazareth House, and it was only I think when I was  
25 about 11 -- in fact, around the time that I found out

1 that my two brothers were in Termonbacca, 10 or 11 years  
2 of age, that I actually found out my sister was in the  
3 Nazareth House.

4 There was -- okay. It was a priest retreat and -- a  
5 priest retreat and a nuns' -- no, the nuns' retreat was  
6 always held in the Nazareth House, and we went down as  
7 the choir, and it was as part of that choir I found out  
8 that my sister -- that I had a sister and she was in the  
9 Nazareth House. She had been born. She had been taken  
10 to Fahan.

11 Somewhere in the massive amount of stuff that I have  
12 moved from house to house to house over the last  
13 forty years there is a photograph of my mother, my  
14 sister as a baby, my younger brother as a baby and  
15 myself and HIA 146 as babies, as young children. HIA 146  
16 probably would have been four years age. So I'm saying  
17 this was just after [REDACTED] was born. I don't remember  
18 this photograph. I don't remember it being taken.  
19 I don't remember any connection between myself and to  
20 all intents and purposes the other three people in this  
21 photograph, but yes, I did have a sister in -- who had  
22 been in the Nazareth House.

23 She came out of the Nazareth House and for a short  
24 while she stayed at home. She stayed with us in the  
25 [REDACTED] and the next thing was that she had been

1           actually moved either back to the Nazareth House or to  
2           the [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] I don't know if  
3           -- I don't know what the reason was for it. I never  
4           heard, but again I think **SND 95** would have been 14 or  
5           15 before, and at that point I was close to 18 and busy  
6           doing other stuff.

7           Q. Sadly **SND 95** is no longer with us. Is that correct?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Now after care you are now married and have been for  
10           several years.

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. You have nine children, and we have indicated you went  
13           back into education, and your life history has been  
14           an open book thanks to the internet --

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. -- for a lot of people. Can I ask you today -- you talk  
17           about you spent many years, as you say at paragraph 37,  
18           going crazy, drinking, taking legally prescribed  
19           medication, and you describe you had a couple of really  
20           close calls as a result of the availability of  
21           medication.

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. Is it fair to say then that you, like many of the people  
24           who have come forward to the Inquiry, describe  
25           difficulty with coping?

1 A. Yes. I had -- I suppose in the late '60s and early '70s  
2 I -- there were other things that were occupying my  
3 mind. I think by the mid '70s -- well, yes, by late  
4 '70s certainly this had started to creep back on me  
5 again, and, in fact, that's how I ended up back at  
6 Termonbacca in 1980, and it is almost like the tide. It  
7 comes and it goes and it comes and it goes, and it  
8 depends what day it is or what year it is or what the  
9 season is, you know. There is absolutely no way of  
10 describing when this type of I suppose to give it its  
11 name trauma visits. It's not predictable. It comes on.  
12 I found a way of managing it. I originally tried  
13 managing it my own way, which was to literally get out  
14 of it, to be drunk, to be on prescription medication, to  
15 get angry, all of that.

16 I think certainly focus on education, put some kind  
17 of regime in my life and the most amazing influence,  
18 which was one of my problems, as I am quite impulsive,  
19 and as part of that impulse I met the most amazing girl  
20 and made the most ridiculous suggestion to her which she  
21 took on, and after three dates and three days over  
22 a period of eight months we got married, and has walked  
23 this with me, not what she was walking, but it hasn't  
24 been easy for her. It hasn't been easy for my kids. It  
25 certainly wasn't easy for them growing up not knowing

1 what this was and what this was about, but I think I'm  
2 in a place where it's being dealt with. I have realised  
3 the value of professional help in coping with this.  
4 I also understand, you know, the value of having peer  
5 support with people who have been through this  
6 experience with us, and I am grateful for the help and  
7 the understanding of all of the people who help us get  
8 beyond where we are. Yes, I am in a different place now  
9 today, yes. You know, I mean, I am human too.

10 Q. HIA 151 can I just ask you you are talking there about peer  
11 support. You were actually instrumental in trying to  
12 set up an old boys' association effectively for boys who  
13 had been in Termonbacca. Is that correct?

14 A. That is correct. We -- I again have a photograph  
15 somewhere of that first attempt and some of the boys and  
16 one of them who has already given evidence here.  
17 I went. I met with them in what they classed as the  
18 squat, which is actually, a very, very comfortable wee  
19 house that they made for themselves, and we just talked  
20 about the possibility of us all losing touch with each  
21 other, and could we not get together. So we got  
22 together, and there was myself, HIA 125 and quite a few of  
23 the other boys.

24 They had met a guy who was a karate instructor. So  
25 that was actually the first thing that we got involved

1 in was the karate club. After that we decided, "Let's  
2 take this a bit further. You know, maybe we should  
3 reach out to other people". We held the first meeting  
4 in -- I remember going talking to Dennis Bradley -- then  
5 he was Father Bradley, who ran what was classed as  
6 The House in the Wells. It wasn't actually in the  
7 Wells; it was in the old gas yard in Derry. It was  
8 technically what would have been called a flop house,  
9 but it was a place for people who had nowhere to live  
10 and were homeless and had drink problems, chronic  
11 alcoholics. He let us actually use the room in there  
12 for the first meeting, and I think sixteen boys turned  
13 up for that first meeting. At the second meeting three  
14 other boys turned up at the meeting, and we were given  
15 in no uncertain terms instructions that we couldn't form  
16 an organisation called the Ex-Termonbacca Boys'  
17 Association and we would have no permission to do it.

18 I think what actually happened was unfortunately  
19 a lot of the boys drifted off as a result of being told  
20 that. We lost the link that we had with each other, and  
21 it took us almost forty years to put that back. I mean,  
22 this is 2014. We are now in the place where we should  
23 have been in 1974.

24 Q. **HIA 151** can I ask you how you now feel about those who  
25 cared for you in Termonbacca?

1   **A.** I thought hard about this. I just ask you bear with me,  
2       because what I am going to do is I am going to actually  
3       jump ahead and do your second question as well.

4   **Q.** Maybe if I ask -- I will ask the question, which is, as  
5       you know, this Inquiry has to make a recommendation  
6       about what should happen now, whether that should be  
7       a memorial, or there should be redress, an apology or  
8       whatever. I was going to ask you what you have to say  
9       about that, but if you want to combine the two --

10  **A.** Yes.

11  **Q.** -- and you feel it's appropriate to do so, then please  
12       do.

13  **A.** Thank you very much.

14       Today on our terms we give evidence to the Inquiry  
15       that we established. We spent almost fifty years  
16       waiting for this day. I hope we have done it with  
17       dignity and respect.

18       My anger against the people and the system that  
19       caused so much pain and destroyed so many lives has  
20       gone. I forgive them for the pain and the anguish that  
21       they caused me, not to free them, but to free me. To  
22       hold that anger still gives them power over me and they  
23       are powerless in my eyes and my life now, but that  
24       forgiveness does not release them from their  
25       responsibility of atonement or the opportunity to make



1 amends.

2 My sorrow is not for them but for the many of us who  
3 never made it this far: my sister **SND 95** **SND24**, **DL 48**  
4 **DL 48** **SND 16** **SND 93**  
5 **SND 167** and many more. It is not  
6 my place to forgive on their behalf or on behalf of the  
7 many here at home in Ireland or scattered across many  
8 lands who still hurt because of their experience, but we  
9 carry their torch and we are their voice. Their memory  
10 and the courage I have seen in those who have come  
11 forward to speak to this Acknowledgment Forum and this  
12 formal Inquiry will carry me and many others through  
13 this.

14 I hope that what I say has done them justice and  
15 that my children and their children understand that we  
16 do this so that their children and others who on a turn  
17 of fate could end up in similar circumstances will never  
18 see this nightmare unfold before them. We have made  
19 those who were blind to our plight see and those who  
20 were deaf to our cries hear, and by God's grace our day  
21 has come. I am grateful for the opportunity that many  
22 never had.

23 I thank you, Mr Chairman, Panel Members, learned  
24 Counsel to the Inquiry, the witness support officers,  
25 First Minister, Peter Robinson, and Deputy First

1 Minister, Martin McGuinness, former Junior Minister  
2 Martina Anderson, Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and  
3 Jennifer McCann, who promised at the outset that they  
4 would walk with us every step of the way and to this  
5 point they have, and to all the staff at OFMDFM.

6 While there are many things in this society that we  
7 disagree on, on this issue we were united. What has  
8 happened to some of the most vulnerable people in this  
9 society was a travesty and needed to be examined.

10 I hope that the learning from this process can show that  
11 there is a way to help some move forward beyond at least  
12 one dark and tragic piece of our history.

13 This was not about destroying the church. Hopefully  
14 what we have done has created the opportunity for the  
15 church to re-engage with some of the most vulnerable of  
16 its people.

17 We ask about recommendations. Recommendations  
18 already exist in Article III of the European Convention  
19 on Human Rights, and I know it is not my place,  
20 Mr Chairman, to quote legislation here, but victims of  
21 humans rights abuses, which this was, have a right to  
22 an effective remedy and reparation, which includes  
23 restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction  
24 and guarantees of non-repetition.

25 My wife and children are certainly in my thoughts

1 today, as are HIA 97 HIA 351 HIA125, HIA46  
2 and John Heaney, who have walked this journey with me;  
3 SND125 and those from SAVIA North-West who have been  
4 with me from the start; HIA 43 from Belfast,  
5 who started this journey with me; and the HIA support  
6 service, which continues to help us, and I get by day by  
7 day by day.

8 This day has come. We should never have had to wait  
9 this long. When we talk about acknowledgment,  
10 acknowledgment for me didn't necessarily mean a statue,  
11 although a statue may be something. I think the  
12 greatest legacy that we can give and that we can take  
13 from this Inquiry so that people understand what we went  
14 through is to ensure that some young people out there  
15 can be advantaged because of what happened to us. For  
16 me the legacy would be a form of a bursary or  
17 educational supplement that would get young people  
18 involved in education, hopefully social work, you know,  
19 anything at all that allows young people to look at what  
20 happened in the past, play a role in ensuring it doesn't  
21 happen in the forward -- in the future and guarantee the  
22 human rights of all children.

23 Thank you. Thank you.

24 Q. Thank you, HIA 151 I am not sure if the Panel Members have  
25 any questions for you, but just stay there for a moment,

1 please.

2 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, [HIA 151] for coming today.

3 **A. Thank you, Mr Chairman.**

4 MS SMITH: Thank you, [HIA 151]

5 **A. Thank you, Ms Smith.**

6 (Witness withdrew)

7 MS SMITH: Chairman, that is the only evidence we will be  
8 calling today. That effectively concludes the sitting  
9 for this week.

10 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will sit again, as announced,  
11 Monday week. Thank you all.

12 (12.45 am)

13 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 am  
14 on Monday, 24th February 2014)

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I N D E X

**HIA 151** (HIA151) (called) .....2  
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