
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 4th March 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 16)

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

1 Tuesday, 4th March 2014

2 (10.30 am)

3 APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF HIA321

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

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

6 Chairman, there is a representative here for HIA321
7 who wishes to make an application to the Inquiry.

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr Reel?

9 MR REEL: Yes, Mr Chairman. As my learned friend has
10 outlined, I appear on behalf of HIA321, instructed by
11 Walter Hegarty, solicitor. The submission -- I know,
12 Chairman, you have had an opportunity to see the
13 submission in writing, and really it relates to whether
14 there's a logical insufficiency in the evidence in
15 relation to HIA321 in which his identity would not be
16 and could not be reasonably inferred but would be
17 a matter of speculation, and whether, if that is the
18 case, it is fair in all the circumstances that he ought
19 to be referred to and have to answer the allegation.
20 I know that you have had an opportunity to read and see
21 that in writing. I don't know if you wish me to open it
22 more fully. I am content that you have had
23 an opportunity to do so.

24 CHAIRMAN: Well, unless there is some specific matter that
25 you feel you wish to add to that, Mr Reel --

1 MR REEL: No, I don't.

2 CHAIRMAN: -- I have, as you say, had the opportunity of
3 looking at it and considering it.

4 MR REEL: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN: So unless there is something you wish to add,
6 I~don't see any need for any additional remarks.

7 MR REEL: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 RULING

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, the Inquiry has been provided with
11 a written submission prepared by Mr Reel, who appears on
12 behalf of the witness who is currently referred to by
13 the designation HIA321. The written submission, which
14 consists of eight paragraphs, makes a number of points
15 which can be summarised as an application that 321
16 should not be referred to in any way whatever when any
17 other witness is giving evidence that may refer to him.

18 Before I turn to deal with the individual points,
19 I should simply place on record, although it is I am
20 sure well understood by everyone now, that the Inquiry
21 operates a policy of anonymity by way of assigning or
22 giving a specific numerical designation to each person
23 who is mentioned, where that person may be either giving
24 evidence to the Inquiry as someone who alleges they
25 suffered abuse or is a person whose conduct might be

1 thought to be open to criticism in one way or another.
2 As has already happened in the preceding fifteen days of
3 the Inquiry, a good many individuals have been referred
4 to in that way.

5 I do, of course, recognise that from time to time
6 the actual name of an individual is referred to in the
7 chamber even though he or she is covered by such
8 a designation. This may come about for a number of
9 reasons, one of which is that the witness simply finds
10 it too difficult to explain who it is he or she is
11 referring to without using the actual name, or it may be
12 explained by counsel to the witness that the person's
13 name is X or Y, as the case may be, for the same reason.

14 However, the designation policy exists and is
15 applied by the Inquiry to ensure that a name is not
16 repeated outside the chamber, even if it is given in the
17 chamber. The Inquiry through its policy and through its
18 counsel does everything that it can to avoid names being
19 mentioned, but for the reasons I have just outlined that
20 is not something that can be achieved in every single
21 instance.

22 The allegations in relation to Mr Reel's client
23 remain to be considered by the Inquiry, and if I may
24 just turn to some of the numbered paragraphs and refer
25 to them as I deal with them.

1 In paragraph 2 it is said that it is possible that
2 the allegations made against 321 will be put to him in
3 open court. That is a matter that remains to be decided
4 by the Inquiry and therefore the observation is
5 premature at this stage, but even if the allegations
6 were to be put to 321, that would simply be the same
7 position as applies to every other witness in the same
8 position. The designation policy and the enforcement of
9 it by the Inquiry through its protocols is the same for
10 each and every witness and is applied as rigorously and
11 even-handedly as we can achieve.

12 In paragraph 3 it is stated that it he may
13 subsequently lose his anonymity. That is simply not
14 relevant at this stage, because that decision would only
15 be made by the Inquiry at a much later stage of its
16 work. Were that to be an issue, then in all probability
17 the Inquiry would certainly permit a person to make
18 written submissions, if not oral submissions, before
19 a final decision was made about that, but at this stage
20 it is simply not relevant, because the situation does
21 not arise.

22 I do not propose to comment on the points made by
23 counsel in paragraph 7 of the written submission. They
24 are clearly set out and the Inquiry has them very much
25 in mind.

1 In the event that it is necessary to consider the
2 strength of the evidence, then, as I have already
3 indicated earlier in the present module, provision will
4 be made by the Inquiry to allow individuals against whom
5 allegations are made as well as organisations the
6 opportunity to make both written and oral submissions at
7 the end of the module.

8 Having considered the matter, therefore, I refuse
9 the application. What the position will remain later
10 after the evidence is given will be a matter for the
11 Inquiry to consider, but at the present time there is no
12 basis upon which the Inquiry considers it appropriate to
13 depart from its normal policy, and the application is
14 refused for that reason.

15 No doubt, Ms Smith, you will do what can be done to
16 ensure that we only refer to the individuals concerned
17 in this particular instance by their designation
18 numbers, subject to the limitations I have already
19 outlined.

20 MS SMITH: Yes, I will, Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Can we have witness 113 brought in now,
22 please? It will be apparent to everyone in the chamber
23 but I should put on record that the witness concerned
24 was kept out of the chamber at my direction until this
25 matter had been ruled upon.

1 Just while we are waiting for the witness, Ms Smith,
2 can you tell me what the designation of the witness
3 statement is in her case? SND ...?

4 MS SMITH: Sir, she is HIA113.

5 CHAIRMAN: But the statement itself?

6 MS SMITH: The statement pages are SND-2334 through 2340.

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

8 WITNESS HIA113 (called)

9 MS SMITH: Good morning, HIA113. HIA113, could you just
10 stand? The Chairman wishes to ask you about taking the
11 oath or affirming.

12 CHAIRMAN: HIA113, do you wish to take either a religious
13 oath or to make an affirmation, which is a solemn
14 promise? They have the same legal effect. It's
15 entirely a matter for you to choose.

16 **A. The religious oath.**

17 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

18 WITNESS HIA113 (sworn)

19 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

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

21 MS SMITH: HIA113, if you can just ensure that you're
22 speaking into the microphone, because everyone has to
23 hear what you say, and if you need a break at any time,
24 please just let us know.

25 You are content to be called HIA113, but you're

1 quite clear that you wish to maintain your anonymity --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and you don't wish your name to be disclosed further
4 than this chamber. Isn't that correct?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. For the purposes of the Inquiry you appreciate that
7 you've been given a designation, which is "HIA113". So
8 if we could just look, first of all, at SND-2334,
9 please. Now, HIA113, I have explained to you this is
10 the witness statement you have provided to the Inquiry,
11 and where it says "HIA113", your name -- your full name
12 is shown beneath that block, black block. If we could
13 just then go to page SND-2340, can you confirm that
14 you've seen the original of your witness statement and
15 you have signed it --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- where it's -- that large black band is and it's dated
18 26th July 2013?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So will you confirm, HIA113, that this is the witness
21 statement that you have provided to the Inquiry and you
22 wish the Inquiry to take it as your evidence?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You're now aged ■. Is that correct?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You will be [REDACTED] very soon, and in your childhood you and
2 your family were taken into care at quite a young age.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You, in fact, and several of your siblings spent short
5 periods of time in Termonbacca before being placed there
6 permanently in [REDACTED] --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and you lived there until [REDACTED]

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Thereafter you were fostered to a family outside of the
11 institution.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Again that was a Social Services' placement. You were
14 with those foster carers from [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] and that
15 foster placement broke down, and you were taken back
16 into care and placed in Nazareth House for a short
17 period of time in your case until you became 16. Is
18 that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Now you set out in your witness statement at paragraph 2
21 -- if we could go back to SND-2334, please, in that you
22 set out that you were placed when you were about [REDACTED]
23 years old in Termonbacca and you were there with your
24 [REDACTED] brothers and [REDACTED] sisters at that time.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. The reasons that you were placed there was essentially
2 because of your mother's lifestyle and the difficulties
3 that she had. She had a large number of children and
4 was unable to cope with that, and she had difficulties
5 in her life and she was, in fact, a heavy drinker
6 herself. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Now you first recollect that you were taken in a car to
9 Termonbacca and you remember one of the social workers
10 who took you there having [REDACTED].

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Can I ask you then what your earliest memory of being in
13 Termonbacca is, HIA113?

14 **A. I can't -- I can't remember. I just remember just being
15 there.**

16 Q. But do you remember -- you don't believe that they were
17 actually ready for you when you first arrived. Is that
18 correct?

19 **A. No, this was another time. It was just, you know, one
20 of the times.**

21 Q. So on one of the occasions -- is this before you were
22 there permanently that you're relating this particular
23 incident?

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. We talk about -- you talk about this in paragraph 3 of

1 your witness statement, just to be clear what we're
2 talking about. You said:

3 "When we first went in, I don't think they were
4 ready for us."

5 The -- I should tell you that the names given there
6 are names of your sisters:

7 "... and I had to share a bed. I think there were
8 less than ten girls in the home at the time."

9 One of your sisters wet the bed and a particular nun
10 you name in that paragraph:

11 "... lined us up and smacked us on the legs with her
12 hand until we said who had wet the bed. Then one of the
13 civilian workers put us in a bath and scrubbed with us
14 a wooden scrubbing brush. I don't recall the worker's
15 name."

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now, just to be clear, HIA113, you're saying this
18 happened on one of the earlier occasions --

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

20 Q. -- when you went into Termonbacca before you were there
21 for the period of several years?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Pardon me. Whenever you were taken in [REDACTED], there were
24 [REDACTED] girls -- isn't that correct -- and [REDACTED] brothers?

25 Do you remember what happened to your siblings? Did you

1 stay together or what happened?

2 **A. I think that myself and my [REDACTED] sisters were together.**

3 **The [REDACTED] boys I think were down in the smaller unit,**

4 **because they were very young.**

5 Q. You were the eldest of this group of [REDACTED] children.

6 Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. So did you see your brothers during your time there?

9 **A. I can't remember. They just happened to come up to the**

10 **same place where we were then.**

11 Q. Was this after a period of time?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You talk about -- paragraph 10 -- about seeing them in
14 the dining room. Just -- you say that your sisters and
15 brothers all had to sit at separate tables in the last
16 line of that paragraph --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- in the dining room and that you weren't allowed to
19 sit together.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Was there much interaction between you as a family in
22 Termonbacca?

23 **A. Yes. We just carried on.**

24 Q. Maybe I wasn't very clear.

25 **A. Sorry.**

1 Q. No. Did you see much of your brothers? Did you play
2 with them?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Did you --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You were able to associate together --

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- and play together?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. What about friendships in the home? Did you form any
11 friendships?

12 **A. I think I did, but I can't remember anybody.**

13 Q. You were happy enough with the clothing with which you
14 were provided.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You talk again in paragraph 10, which we're just looking
17 at, about the food that you were given in the home, and
18 in particular you talk about the porridge that you were
19 given in the morning, and if you didn't eat it, it was
20 still there when you got back from school.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You talk about a particular nun who you name in that
23 statement, and you say that:

24 "She force fed my sisters and me the lumpy porridge.

25 On one occasion I remember vomiting. The nun cleaned up

1 the vomit and then continued to force feed me the
2 remaining porridge. Apart from the porridge the food in
3 the home was all right."

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You were happy enough apart from this breakfast --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- with the food that was provided, but you say that
8 your brother, who you name, didn't like any of the food
9 and you say he used to just suck it but didn't actually
10 eat it.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You go on to talk about the dining room then.

13 The only recollection that you have of bathing and
14 the bed wetting is the incident that you talked about at
15 paragraph 3 about your sister wetting the bed. Isn't
16 that correct?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Am I right in thinking that you have no recollection
19 yourself of doing any chores about the home?

20 **A. No, I don't remember doing anything.**

21 Q. You don't remember your schooling when you were at
22 Termonbacca. Is that correct?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. You don't remember where you went to school?

25 **A. I think we went to [REDACTED].**

1 Q. What about special occasions? Do you remember Christmas
2 being celebrated at all?

3 **A. I remember Christmas. I remember getting toys and**
4 **I remember going to the beach.**

5 Q. You talk about going to the beach I think further on in
6 your statement at paragraph 13. Isn't that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You say that:

9 "There were good times in Termonbacca. We used to
10 go to the beach in Greencastle for a couple of weeks
11 during the summer".

12 and you remember the nuns used to bring a big flask
13 of soup.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. I take it you meant they brought a big flask of soup
16 from where you were staying out on to the beach. Is
17 that what you mean by that?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Well, did you get pocket money? Do you remember that?

20 **A. I don't remember getting pocket money.**

21 Q. Do you remember anything about how your birthday was
22 celebrated in the home or was it celebrated?

23 **A. I don't remember. I only remember one time that**
24 **I thought it was my birthday and it wasn't my birthday.**

25 Q. Can you say why you thought it was your birthday?

1 **A.** Because I think it was my sister turned round and told
2 the people that were going take us out, you know,
3 fostering that -- she told them that it was my birthday
4 and they brought me up a wee gold chain and cross for my
5 birthday, and it wasn't my birthday, but they allowed me
6 to keep it anyway.

7 Q. Do you remember ever seeing anybody -- you were placed
8 in care by Welfare Authority --

9 **A.** Yes.

10 Q. -- by the Trust. Do you remember anybody -- any social
11 worker coming to visit you when you were in Termonbacca?

12 **A.** No.

13 Q. Though you do remember being taken by a social worker to
14 the home.

15 **A.** Yes.

16 Q. Do you remember any senior nuns visiting the home during
17 your time there?

18 **A.** No.

19 Q. Or anybody else coming up to visit?

20 **A.** No. There would have been -- they are like other things
21 like, you know, people would have been in taking
22 photographs and people getting awards and stuff like
23 that there, you know -- you know, would have been
24 happening in there.

25 Q. So there were people coming to visit the home --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- but you didn't have any dealings --

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. -- with these people.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. What about music in the home? Do you remember that
7 being a feature at all or ...?

8 **A. No. I never -- if it was, I didn't participate in**
9 **anything.**

10 Q. Now if I just take you to some of the specific
11 allegations that you make in your statement, you have
12 talked about what you say happened at paragraph 3.

13 If we could just look at paragraph 4, the nun who
14 you describe in paragraph 3 you talk about her again in
15 paragraph 4 and say that she had [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] You say if you met her on the corridor, she
17 used to hit you on the head with her knuckles and she
18 did this to all the children.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You said it was really sore and it stung. You say that
21 she always took you to her room to hit you harder.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Can you say where her room was and what you mean by her
24 room? Was this a bedroom or an office or ...?

25 **A. It was a bedroom and it was across the hall from my**

1 bedroom where my [REDACTED] sisters, you know, slept, you know,
2 in the room with me.

3 Q. You said she took you there to hit you harder. You felt
4 that you were beaten all the time, certainly about two
5 or three times a week.

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. You say at paragraph 5 you always tried to please this
8 nun so that she would stop beating you, and you told her
9 things to get in her good books, but she always beat the
10 [REDACTED] of you -- you told her things about your sisters
11 --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- that they had done to try and get into her good books
14 but:

15 "She always beat the [REDACTED] of us anyway."

16 You talk about an incident where you and your [REDACTED]
17 sisters were playing in the chapel and pretending --

18 A. Pretending to be -- you know, do mass.

19 Q. Pretending to do mass, and one sister was the priest,
20 another was the altar boy and you were the congregation.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You thought this was fun and funny and you told the nun
23 about it, but she then took you to a room individually
24 and she then beat you on the legs with a plastic curtain
25 rail, which was about a metre long.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now can you describe what you mean by the plastic
3 curtain rail? What type of curtain rail was it?

4 **A. It was a curtain rail that a curtain hangs on that it
5 slides across.**

6 Q. So one you would put hooks into?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. So it was a length of that about a metre long?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You also talk about her at paragraph 6 and say that she
11 used to wash your mouth with Fairy Liquid and
12 a toothbrush if you gave cheek or said a bad word and
13 when she was doing it, she would say, "You'll not do
14 that again", and she did the same thing to your sisters.

15 Can I just pause there to say aside from the
16 statement that you have given to the Inquiry you have
17 also spoken (sic) -- spoken to the police about this.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. In that statement you relate her making you drink Fairy
20 Liquid --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- from a cup.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Is there something you want to say to the Inquiry about
25 that, HIA113?

1 **A.** It depended on what was happening at the -- and who --
2 and who was around. The kitchen and the wee bathroom
3 were sort of across the hall from one another except
4 for, you know, maybe up a wee bit. So if there was
5 somebody in the kitchen, she would have took you to the
6 bathroom, and if there was somebody about, she would
7 have took you into the kitchen, and it would have been
8 put into a cup with a wee taste of water in it.

9 **Q.** That's in the kitchen?

10 **A.** **Yes.**

11 **Q.** So the toothbrush --

12 **A.** The toothbrush was always just, you know, sitting in the
13 bathroom, and she would have took that and pushed it
14 around the soap and just tried to scrub your tongue with
15 it.

16 **Q.** So when you're talking about using to wash your mouth
17 with Fairy Liquid and with a toothbrush, those are two
18 different things?

19 **A.** **Yes.**

20 **Q.** You talk about when you were young, you had a bad
21 stammer --

22 **A.** **Yes.**

23 **Q.** -- and you were nervous. Your say your stammer became
24 worse and she accused you of putting it on.

25 **A.** **Yes.**

1 Q. Paragraph 7, despite all that, you went on holidays and
2 she was nice to you and didn't beat you there and you
3 liked her.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. She is now -- you have since learned that she is now
6 deceased. Is that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Paragraph 8, you again talk about this particular nun
9 and say that you shared a room with your sisters. You
10 had single beds and that you looked out over the
11 football pitch. As you were the eldest, your sisters
12 wouldn't do what they were told by the nuns unless you
13 give them the nod to say it was okay to do that.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. As a result she took you to her bedroom and hit you with
16 the curtain rail and kept saying, "You're not their
17 mummy".

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You describe where her bedroom was, and every time she
20 swung at you:

21 "I would try to jump over the top of the rail
22 shouting, 'I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry', and you
23 didn't understand what you'd done wrong.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Now those are the complaints that you have about that

1 particular nun. You have indicated in paragraph 9 about
2 the fact that she also force fed you, but if I can take
3 you now to paragraph 9, you describe in paragraph 9
4 instances of abuse by what you describe as bigger boys
5 who had rooms -- bedrooms I take it -- down the corridor
6 from yours, and they would come into your bedroom where
7 you were sharing with your sisters. You say that you
8 were terrified and didn't open your eyes, and you go on
9 to describe how a boy knelt down beside your bed and
10 what he did to you when he -- when he did that, and you
11 say it went on for maybe ten or fifteen minutes. You
12 didn't move. You pretended you were asleep. You were
13 frightened, and you said that abuse occurred maybe ten
14 times, about ten times you say, maybe every two or three
15 weeks, and you describe what happened on some occasions
16 and on other occasions.

17 You then talk about when this happened once that
18 after the boy had done something to you you got up to go
19 to the toilet, and you say you walked past an older
20 boys' room. The door was open and they were laughing
21 and you knew it was one of them.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Now you name in that paragraph one boy, and you will see
24 from the statement before you that he has been given
25 a designation, which is "HIA321". We are not going to

1 use his name at all --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- HIA113. We will just refer to him as "321". You are
4 saying that you were sure that he abused you, as you
5 recognised his voice.

6 "I don't know who the other boys were that abused
7 me, but I think there was more than one."

8 You again made a statement to the police later about
9 this. If we could just maybe look at what you say in
10 your police statement, which is at page SND-15327,
11 please. If would could enlarge that page and scroll
12 down to the line:

13 "Some of the bigger boys ...",
14 at the bottom there.

15 You see you are talking about the same allegation.
16 You say:

17 "Some of the bigger boys would come into my room at
18 night when I was sleeping and I would wake to find one
19 of them tugging my pyjamas down."

20 You describe what they do. You say:

21 "There was only one boy at a time doing this. They
22 were usually crouched down in the dark and I couldn't
23 see their faces. I would have pretended to still be
24 sleeping and I didn't let on I was wide awake when they
25 did this, because I wouldn't have been able to face them

1 the next day, but they must have known I was wide
2 awake."

3 You talk about sometimes holding on to your pyjamas.
4 You say you were about 6 years old when this happened.
5 The boys would have been around 10 or 12. You can
6 remember one boy who did this to you. You give his
7 name. That's 321. You say he was one of the bigger
8 boys. You give a description of what he looked like.
9 You describe what you say he did to you. You say:

10 "After he was finished I had to go to the toilet and
11 this meant I had to walk past the room where the boys
12 were sleeping in the room. The door was open and
13 I heard 321 talking to the other boy. I think there
14 were only two of them. I couldn't hear exactly what he
15 was saying but I knew he was talking about me. My
16 nerves were bad and I was terrified and my heart was
17 pounding. I couldn't walk past the boys' room, so
18 I~turned and went back into my own room. I peed in the
19 waste bin in my room. I can remember this happened with
20 another boy who ...",

21 and you describe someone else. You say it happened
22 with other boys in the home who you don't remember. You
23 say the way you dealt with it was not thinking about it.

24 "I thought, 'If I don't think about it, it didn't
25 happen to me'."

1 You went on -- you say that abuse went on until you
2 were fostered out.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now is there anything else you want to tell the Inquiry
5 about why you have named 321?

6 **A. Because once I went back to my room and got back into
7 bed again and went to settle down, he -- he came up to
8 try -- try again, and as I was turning round, I seen him
9 standing outside my door and said, "What are you
10 standing out there for?"**

11 Q. And you recognised him --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- as 321?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Not just by his voice, but by --

16 **A. No, by -- by his appearance.**

17 Q. -- by his appearance?

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Now I obviously have to say to you, HIA113, that you
20 didn't say that either in your statement to the Inquiry
21 --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- or indeed in the police statement that I have just
24 read out to you.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. Can you explain why you didn't do that?

2 **A. Because I didn't want to get him into trouble.**

3 Q. Now this particular person, 321, has given a witness
4 statement to the Inquiry. He in that witness statement,
5 which I should say to the Inquiry is SND-14866 -- if we
6 just go to that page, please, and you'll see that again
7 it's set out in the same way as your own witness
8 statement and the designations are there.

9 He essentially says that he remembers your family
10 being in Termonbacca at the same time as he was there
11 and he agrees that the particular nun that you describe
12 did hit children in the way that you describe. He says
13 that at paragraph 7 of his statement, if we can scroll
14 down, but he himself was hit in the way described by her
15 once and he said it was for talking back to a nun in the
16 kitchen. He did see her hit other children in the same
17 way, but he can't remember specifically any particular
18 person or how often it happened, and it wasn't a daily
19 occurrence, and he doesn't remember ever being taken to
20 this particular nun's room and he doesn't recall you
21 being beaten or know anything about your dealings with
22 this particular nun. He doesn't remember you as having
23 a [REDACTED].

24 He goes on at paragraph 10 to quite categorically
25 state:

1 "I did not abuse [you]. I did not touch her.

2 I have told the police too."

3 So he has been interviewed by the police and he has
4 denied he ever touched you in the way you have described
5 in your statements. As he indicated, that is what he
6 has told the police. Is there anything you want to say
7 about that, HIA113?

8 **A. I don't know, because the name callings that I got when**
9 **I was wee, you know, like [REDACTED] because I had,**
10 **you know, [REDACTED], and like they had nicknames**
11 **themselves too.**

12 Q. But is there anything you want to say about the fact
13 that he says that he didn't do what you say he did?

14 **A. Well, he did, and I have no proof of it.**

15 Q. Now you were -- apart from the witness statement that
16 you gave to the police, which was last year, that we've
17 just read part of out, do you remember being spoken to
18 by the police in 2004?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. If we could just look at that statement, that's
21 SND-15543. SND-15543, please. You see this is a short
22 statement and it is dated 3rd February 2004 and it
23 was -- it just reads that you -- it gives your name,
24 gives your maiden name, and along with your sisters and
25 brother you were a child resident at Termonbacca

1 Children's Home for three years from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

2 "Sergeant ..."

3 Sorry. Could we just scroll down, please?

4 "Sergeant [REDACTED] has asked me some questions
5 about my time there. I can say that I do not remember
6 ...",

7 and you name two boys in that witness statement who
8 you were asked about by the police. You don't remember
9 them being at the home. You go on to say:

10 "I did not witness any abuse going on at the home
11 whilst I was there and no-one discussed the fact that
12 they were abused with me."

13 Now can you just -- I think you talk about this in
14 your witness statement -- isn't that correct --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and being spoken to by police? It is the final
17 paragraph of your witness statement at page SND-2340.
18 If we could go back to that. You say that you never
19 reported the abuse to the police. About twelve years
20 ago you thought police arrived at your house and asked
21 you if you knew a boy in Termonbacca and whether or not
22 he had been abused by this particular nun. You can't
23 remember his name.

24 "... but we were in the home at the same time.

25 I told them that we were all beaten by this nun."

1 They informed you that she had, in fact, [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. That was the first you were aware that this particular
6 nun was dead.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Can I just ask -- the statement that I have just shown,
9 the police statement, refers to two boys and you say
10 that you didn't witness any abuse, but it doesn't make
11 any reference to this particular nun in that police
12 statement.

13 **A. No. I -- I seen everybody getting the knuckle on their**
14 **head, but the hitting I -- they said that they were**
15 **getting hit, but when I was getting hit, I only thought**
16 **it was -- was me. We didn't know anybody else was**
17 **getting hit.**

18 Q. So when you say that you didn't witness any abuse, that
19 was because you didn't see any other child --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- being hit. You just thought you were the only one
22 being abused --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. --in the way you describe.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. HIA113, you have indicated that -- we have said that you
2 were moved to a foster placement, and in your witness
3 statement at paragraphs 14 through to 15 you describe
4 your time in foster care. You will appreciate that the
5 Inquiry is only dealing with what happened to you while
6 you were resident in one of the institutions that you
7 were in.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. So although you set out in great detail there what
10 happened, it is not something that the Inquiry will be
11 looking at --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- in any great detail, but obviously as a result of
14 what happened there you made a complaint which was then
15 brought to the attention of Social Services. Isn't that
16 correct?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You and your [REDACTED] sisters who had been with you in
19 Termonbacca were taken out of the foster home and placed
20 back into care. Isn't that correct?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now your other [REDACTED] brothers and a younger sister who had
23 been born during your -- to your mother during your time
24 in Termonbacca actually remained in the foster home.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You were then taken to Nazareth House --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and there is only one -- you liked your time there.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You liked Nazareth House, and there's only one complaint
6 that you have to make about your time there, which you
7 describe at paragraph 18. You were only there for
8 a short period of time. Isn't that correct?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You say there was one occasion when you wanted to go to
11 the corner shop nearby and stand with boys and girls
12 round the same age. You were stopped at the front door
13 by a particular nun whom you name and she wouldn't let
14 you out. You say she pinned your arms up your back and
15 said, "Are you going whoring?"

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You didn't even know what the word meant.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You believe that she has since left the Order and may,
20 [REDACTED].

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You were told that by another younger sister who was in
23 the home after you.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. But apart from that one incident Nazareth House itself

1 was fine and you were treated, as you describe it, as
2 all right in Nazareth House.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. But you were unhappy and wanted to return back to your
5 mother. Isn't that correct?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Is it correct that, in fact, two of your sisters
8 returned home to your mother before you did?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. After that you ran away to your mother's.

11 **A. No. My sister ran away.**

12 Q. Sorry. Yes. You talk about this in paragraph 19, where
13 you say that one of your sisters -- you left Nazareth
14 House and you returned home. You described how life was
15 dreadful there. Your mother sadly passed away aged [REDACTED].
16 She had [REDACTED] children in total.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You are in close contact with your brothers and sisters
19 except for two of them. Isn't that correct?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You describe that in paragraph 20. You yourself have
22 experienced depression and you have -- you are on
23 medication for that. You have not had any involvement
24 with Social Services since you left at age 16. Isn't
25 that correct?

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Now I showed you a document this morning which
3 indicates -- that's page SND-2355 -- this is a case
4 recording document that has been provided by Social
5 Services. It is dated [REDACTED]. It says that you
6 are 18 years old and you don't want to avail of social
7 work services. So they are unable to provide the
8 aftercare services that they would like to provide and
9 they say there is no further action.

10 Do you have any recollection after you left at the
11 age of 16 of Social Services contacting you or offering
12 you aftercare service?

13 **A. No, I seen nobody after I got out of the home. That was
14 it.**

15 Q. Just -- I am not asking that this document be pulled up,
16 but just for the benefit of the Panel Members, who may
17 be curious as to the circumstances of the foster
18 placement coming to an end, there is a document at
19 SND-10257 which sets out the background to that, Panel
20 Members.

21 Now, HIA113, can I ask you is there -- how you feel
22 today about those who cared for you during your
23 childhood?

24 **A. I don't feel anything.**

25 Q. Is there anything further that we haven't covered in

1 your evidence this morning that you feel you ought to
2 tell the Inquiry, because this is your opportunity to
3 say so if there's something you want to say?

4 **A. No. I think that's -- that's it. I don't remember**
5 **a wild lot.**

6 Q. Finally then, can I ask you -- you are aware that the
7 Inquiry at the end of its work has to make
8 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Housing
9 Executive as to what should happen, whether there should
10 be an apology, whether there should be some sort of
11 memorial or whether there should be some sort of redress
12 scheme. Have you any thoughts on that or do you have
13 anything you want to say to the Inquiry about it?

14 **A. I don't know.**

15 Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much very much, HIA113.

16 **A. Okay.**

17 Q. If you just stay there, the Chairman and Panel Members
18 may have some questions for you.

19 **A. Okay.**

20 **Questions from THE PANEL**

21 CHAIRMAN: HIA113, can I just ask you to go back to these
22 things you say happened in the bedroom?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. I just want to ask you one or two things about that.
25 Did the individual who was in the bedroom doing these

1 things, did he ever speak in any way?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. You said that you were asleep. Was the room dark?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Was there any light in it at all?

6 **A. Except for the hall when the door of the bedroom was**
7 **open.**

8 Q. Yes. So that was all the light you could see by in the
9 room --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- was what came in from the corridor?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Do you think it was always the same person or was it
14 different people?

15 **A. No, it was different ones.**

16 Q. Different people?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You have only been able to pick out one of them --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- for the reasons you have given. Is that because you
21 heard him speaking with these other boys?

22 **A. No. It's because when I went to turn around in the bed,**
23 **I seen -- because he was crouched down, you know, on his**
24 **knees on the floor and his hands up on the cover, I seen**
25 **the top of his hair, and at the time then when I was --**

1 after -- he must have heard a noise, because he left,
2 and I had to go to the toilet and I wouldn't walk past
3 their bedroom. So I came back up to my bedroom to go to
4 the toilet in the wee waste paper bin. He came back up
5 again, and I was turning round in bed, and I turned
6 round and says, "What are you standing out there for?"

7 --

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. -- and he goes, "Oh, nothing".

10 Q. You said that this boy had [REDACTED]. Is
11 that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You also said that, when you were asked by Ms Smith
14 about this, that he did do it --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and that you have proof. What do you mean by
17 "proof"?

18 A. No, I don't have proof.

19 Q. I misheard you. You don't have proof.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, HIA113.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Thank you for coming to speak to us today. I think
24 that's all we need to ask you about.

25 A. Okay. Thank you.

1 Q. So as far as we are concerned you can leave the chamber
2 if you wish.

3 **A. Thank you.**

4 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA113.

5 Chairman, the next witness will be taken by
6 Mr Aiken. So if you don't mind rising for ...

7 CHAIRMAN: We'll just rise for a few minutes.

8 MS SMITH: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA113.

10 (Witness withdrew)

11 (11.25 am)

12 (Short break)

13 (11.35 am)

14 WITNESS HIA126 (called)

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

16 The next witness is "HIA126" or HIA126. That's what I
17 am going to call her. She is aware, Chairman you are
18 going to ask her about the oath or affirmation.

19 CHAIRMAN: HIA126, would you prefer to make a religious oath
20 or to make an affirmation? It is the same legal effect.
21 It is entirely a matter for your decision.

22 **A. Affirmation.**

23 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

24 WITNESS HIA126 (affirmed)

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Sit down, please.

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MR AIKEN: Can we bring up on the screen, please, SND-2403?

3 HIA126, you are aware from our discussion before you
4 came in that on the screen now you can see a copy of
5 your witness statement --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- but you should have with you in the witness box the
8 version where you can see what lies underneath the black
9 redactions, as we call them, or the black marks that you
10 can see on the screen.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. I want to draw your attention to this for two reasons.
13 The first is that the reason for the black redactions
14 being on the screen is because the Inquiry gives
15 anonymity to witnesses who have come forward to give
16 evidence. So when one looks at the document, nobody can
17 tell from it that this is you who has provided the
18 statement, because no-one can see your name, and
19 anonymity is a matter for you and whether you want,
20 whenever your story is reported, that to be associated
21 with your name or not is a matter for you.

22 So do you want to keep your anonymity so that when
23 the matter is reported, no-one will know that it's
24 relating to you?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You want to remain anonymous?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. So whenever the documents go up on the Inquiry website,
4 for instance, they won't have your name identified.
5 They will be in the form that you can see them on the
6 screen.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The second issue that I'd like to deal with, if you can
9 look at the version that's on the screen and if you can
10 compare that with the hard copy that you've got in front
11 of you, can you just check that the -- the two match?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. If we can then go, please, to SND-2408 and if you can
14 look at the last page on the hard copy that you've got,
15 you'll see that on the screen this version indicates at
16 the signature box a black box with your designation in
17 it, but can you confirm that in the hard copy you
18 have -- you have signed the witness statement?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And that you want to adopt the content of the witness
21 statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Thank you. Now you indicate you were born in [REDACTED]
24 of [REDACTED] back in paragraph 1 on SND-2403, please, and that
25 makes you [REDACTED] now.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. As your sister before you who has given evidence this
3 morning, you spent most of your childhood in care --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- or in and out of care in connection with difficulties
6 with your mother.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. What I'm going to do just now to try and set the scene
9 to make it easier for you and for the Panel is just to
10 plot briefly your path through care. Originally you
11 were living with your mum and then you go into
12 Termonbacca you think between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. That's between the ages of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now I know -- and we'll come back to it when we talk
17 specifically about Termonbacca -- but you say you were
18 in and out of Termonbacca during those four years.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. I've already made you aware that unfortunately the
21 records that have been provided to the Inquiry don't
22 allow us to be very clear about when you went in and
23 out. There is definitely indication of going out and
24 coming back in, but it's not clear when.

25 So you spent four years there until [REDACTED] of

1 [REDACTED].

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Then you and your other [REDACTED] siblings who were in
4 Termonbacca with you were fostered out to a foster
5 family.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. That foster family has been given a designation as well,
8 the husband and wife, and we're going to talk briefly
9 about them, but you spent essentially [REDACTED] years with
10 them between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Then you and your [REDACTED] sisters, one the Inquiry has heard
13 from earlier today and another sister, **SND 197**, you [REDACTED]
14 left the foster placement, and it seems your other [REDACTED]
15 siblings stayed on for a further period of time before
16 they left in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]

17 Q. When the foster placement ended for you in [REDACTED], you then
18 went into Nazareth House in Bishop Street.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You were there between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] so
21 between the ages of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- although again you were in and out of Nazareth House
24 with your mum taking you out for a few months, that
25 breaking down and then you going back in again.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Then in [REDACTED], because of difficulties for you
3 in Nazareth House -- and we've spoken about that already
4 this morning and we'll look at that briefly later in
5 your evidence -- you then are moved from Nazareth House
6 to Fort James Children's Home, where you stay between
7 [REDACTED] and approximately [REDACTED] between the
8 ages of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Then you go off to form a life with your present husband
11 and you and him live together ever since.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Now that's just to try to paint a picture of the journey
14 that we're going to go on. I want to begin looking at
15 the Termonbacca period, because that's the period which
16 you have bad memories of, and your other experiences in
17 care you would say are not as bad as your time that you
18 spent at Termonbacca. Is that fair?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So if we go back, we are at page SND-2403, and one of
21 the first questions I was going ask was what's your
22 memory of -- first memory of Termonbacca? You indicate
23 in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of your statement
24 that you think your first memory was when you were three
25 years old and you remember being stripped down and

1 bathed with the others and then put straight to bed. If
2 they had no bed for you, you had to share it, and you
3 say they didn't care whether you shared it as long as
4 you had somewhere to sleep. Now is that essentially you
5 describing one of the -- you mention being in and out --
6 one of the first nights you go in and that first night
7 you are washed and the three of you are put to bed in
8 one bed together?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Does that then change, that all three of you have your
11 own bed?

12 **A. Yes. Then we get other own bed then the next day**
13 **whenever there was more about to get you sorted out.**

14 Q. So whether this was the very first time you went to
15 Termonbacca or one of the subsequent times you go in
16 with your family, this is a memory of a first night, as
17 it were --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- when you entered Termonbacca. You describe how you
20 and your two sisters are together and then you describe,
21 paragraph 3, the three different sections in
22 Termonbacca.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You've got the nursery section and then two older groups
25 of children --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. --in a chalet type accommodation.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. That chalet type accommodation had bedrooms upstairs and
5 then a living room with a kitchen type area --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and a dining room.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. The other group of older kids had the same version of
10 accommodation for them.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You were kept with your two sisters.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Now you identify two particular individuals who worked
15 in Termonbacca, one nun, that's SR6, and the Panel knows
16 who you are referring to when you're talking about SR6,
17 and also a civilian member of staff, who is SND57.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. The first incident that you talk about in paragraph 4 of
20 your statement relates to breakfast time and eating, and
21 you mention that essentially they tried to force you to
22 eat the food that you were being given. You got
23 porridge for breakfast. Is that right?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is it the case that you didn't always like the porridge?

1 **A. I didn't like it at all.**

2 Q. You didn't like it at all. What would happen then if
3 you didn't eat the porridge?

4 **A. It was forced down you. You had to -- they would have**
5 **stood there with a spoon. You would have been keeping**
6 **your mouth closed so that you couldn't open it to eat**
7 **it. They would have force fed you.**

8 Q. If you didn't finish it at breakfast, what happened to
9 the porridge?

10 **A. It was left for you for your tea.**

11 Q. So you go off to school, come back and when it's
12 teatime, your porridge is brought back out to you?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Do you eat it then?

15 **A. No. I couldn't even eat it then.**

16 Q. Now the -- using the -- the particular nun that you
17 describe, SR6, through other material the Inquiry has
18 and other evidence it's heard it seems that she was
19 present from [REDACTED] -- the records suggest [REDACTED], but
20 possibly [REDACTED] -- which would have made you [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
21 at the time of what you're describing. Can you remember
22 was SR6 always there when you were in Termonbacca or did
23 she come at some point during your stay?

24 **A. I just remember her there all the time.**

25 Q. You remember her there all the time.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You say that the daily routine for you whenever you were
3 there, if we look at paragraph 5, is you would get up at
4 7.00 am. You'd get ready for school. You'd go down to
5 the dining room for breakfast. You say you didn't go to
6 mass every day.

7 **A. Not that I remember, no.**

8 Q. When did you go to mass?

9 **A. Mostly a Sunday.**

10 Q. Sunday, but you then describe having to get down, clean
11 the floors, brush them, scrub them and then get ready
12 for school. Did cleaning happen every day?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. How did the cleaning compare in Termonbacca from when
15 you were in Nazareth House or Fort James? Can you
16 please give the Inquiry a sense of what level of
17 cleaning are we talking about?

18 **A. You had to make sure that every spot was off the floor
19 before you polished whereas in Nazareth House you sort
20 of got a bit of leeway, like. You were -- if you didn't
21 do it right, they would come behind you and sort of
22 leave it the way it's supposed to be left.**

23 Q. Well, from your -- everyone has cleaning at some stage
24 to do in their life. Would you describe this as hard,
25 easy, etc? How would you -- what word would you use?

1 **A. It's hard for a [REDACTED]-year-old who is down on your hands**
2 **and knees scrubbing a carpet to get the stains off.**

3 Q. Was this a task that everybody had to do?

4 **A. Some of them had to do it.**

5 Q. You describe then in paragraph 6 how after the cleaning
6 you got ready for school, and the school -- particular
7 school you went to was some distance away and it took
8 an hour to walk there, and SR6 drove a bus to school.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Did you ever travel on the bus?

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. Who got to travel on the bus?

13 **A. It would have been her -- her favourites. Whoever she**
14 **liked the most she would have taken on the bus.**

15 Q. You have a view about how you became a favourite of SR6.
16 How did you become a favourite of her?

17 **A. I just done what she asked me to do or whatever to sort**
18 **of get on the bus so I could -- instead of walking.**

19 Q. You say in paragraph 6 she picked the children she could
20 manipulate --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. --and who would tell her things.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You and your [REDACTED] sisters didn't tell her anything. So
25 you were never selected.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. So others went on the bus.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Is that right?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You then describe in paragraph 7 difficulty with you
7 wetting yourself.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now did this happen by bedwetting at night or was this
10 during the day?

11 **A. It was both, during the day and at night.**

12 Q. How was that dealt with by the people who worked in the
13 home? What did they do?

14 **A. As soon as I came in from school they would have told me
15 to go into the bathroom and poked at my trousers or
16 whatever I was wearing, my pants down, to see if I'd wet
17 them, and if I had wet them, then I was sent to the room
18 to the next morning.**

19 Q. So you were sent to your room at night?

20 **A. No. As soon as I came home from school they would have
21 checked my underwear, and then as soon as that, then it
22 was, "Up to your room and stay there to the next
23 morning". It was about 3.30 or so I was in my room
24 from.**

25 Q. So if you weren't wet, that didn't happen to you?

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. Did you have difficulty wetting the bed?

3 **A. I would have wet the bed most nights.**

4 Q. What happened when you wet the bed?

5 **A. The same thing happened. I was straight up to my room.**

6 **I wasn't allowed to do anything the rest of the day.**

7 Q. Now you then describe a series of incidents with SR6,
8 a particular nun that you identify, and you say in
9 paragraph 7 that she had a [REDACTED]

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. What way did that look then? You talk about her.

12 "She would hit with you the knuckles, because she'd

13 [REDACTED]. She used to crack your head [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]"

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Do you want to -- can you gesture for the Panel what it
17 looked like?

18 **A. [REDACTED]**

19 **(Gesturing.) Then she would have just cracked you on
20 the head.**

21 Q. Why did she crack you on the head?

22 **A. For no reason. You could have been walking past her and
23 she would have just knuckled you.**

24 Q. How often would she have done that?

25 **A. Whenever she seen you.**

1 Q. Now you then describe in paragraph 7 a particular
2 incident where you and your [REDACTED] sisters had gone into
3 the chapel.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. What were you doing in the chapel, the three of you?

6 **A. We were letting on to do mass. One of us was the**
7 **priest, the other was an altar boy and the other was the**
8 **congregation, and we went up and started making a mock**
9 **of the mass.**

10 Q. How did SR6 find out about this?

11 **A. Sister went and told. She told us that she wouldn't**
12 **tell, but she went on ahead and told.**

13 Q. Why do you think your sister told on you?

14 **A. She wanted to get in on her good books.**

15 Q. What were the consequences of your sister telling on you
16 to SR6?

17 **A. The [REDACTED] of us got a battering.**

18 Q. What did she use to give you that battering?

19 **A. A curtain rod, plastic curtain rod.**

20 Q. Now this is not a curtain rod as we would understand it
21 today --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- that's a big wooden thing or a big metal thing. This
24 is a thin plastic --

25 **A. Plastic length.**

1 Q. Where did she hit you with that?

2 **A. Where she could hit you with, your arms, your legs, your**
3 **back, wherever she could get.**

4 Q. Now you say in paragraph 8 of your statement that as far
5 as you understand it SR6 is now dead?

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. How do you know that?

8 **A. Sister told me.**

9 Q. So it's -- you don't know that for yourself?

10 **A. I don't know for definite. It is just someone must have**
11 **told her and then she told me.**

12 Q. So it's a rumour that you've picked up. You say that
13 she was one evil nun.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can I ask you do you remember -- have you fond memories
16 of other nuns? Were there other nuns that stick out in
17 your mind as being --

18 **A. There was other nuns, but I just can't mind their names.**
19 **There were other nuns that were good, but I just can't**
20 **...**

21 Q. This is just one nun who sticks out?

22 **A. This is -- she sticks out the most.**

23 Q. You then describe in the second half of paragraph 8
24 something that she would have said to you. It was just,
25 "Oh, you're getting fed. You're getting a roof over

1 your head. Your mother and father didn't want you. You
2 would have been God knows where out in the street".

3 That's the way they made you feel and:

4 "... I just hated the place."

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Who would have said those type of things to you?

7 **A. The nun.**

8 Q. The same SR6?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You had a bad experience with that particular civilian
11 worker that you --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- have mentioned. What was it about her that you have
14 a bad memory of?

15 **A. Because she was the one that always took me in to check**
16 **me if I had wet myself and she was the one that helped**
17 **to force feed me.**

18 Q. Now you do have a very positive memory of a particular
19 member of civilian staff. If we scroll down to
20 paragraph 10, it's a name that the Inquiry has heard in
21 similar terms before. That's SND21.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I think you've described her as **SND 21**

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. We were discussing that with you. It is SND21 is the

1 person you are talking about.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. What was it about her you remember fondly?

4 **A. I remember her taking me and my [REDACTED] sisters out to her**
5 **house and we stayed there all day, and then when it was**
6 **time for us to go back, I ran around the place and**
7 **didn't want to go back again. She just let you do what**
8 **you wanted and, you know, talked to you and whatever,**
9 **and you didn't get hit or you didn't get anything forced**
10 **down your mouth. You were just treated like a wain.**

11 Q. What was her attitude towards the children? What was
12 she like in dealing with you?

13 **A. She was great.**

14 Q. You also mention in paragraph 10 a particular social
15 worker that you had --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- who also treated you very well.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. That's [REDACTED].

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Again she took you out on occasions.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You do then describe in paragraph 9 some -- if we just
24 scroll up a little -- some positive memories of your
25 time in Termonbacca. You describe how you went on

1 holiday to a big house in Greencastle near Merville. You
2 stayed there about a month every summer. You did have
3 good times going to the beach and you were able to run
4 around with no-one asking you if you had wet yourself.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Why did they not ask you about wetting yourself when you
7 were on holiday?

8 **A. Because the two groups or the three groups would have**
9 **all went together and there was too many for them to,**
10 **you know, go question and what not. There was far too**
11 **many of us.**

12 Q. And those are your -- you say then Greencastle and the
13 beach were the only good things about --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- you say the place. Is that about Termonbacca?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now whenever you came, HIA126, to leave Termonbacca in
18 [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] you and your other [REDACTED] siblings who
19 had lived with you in Termonbacca were all taken out on
20 the foster placement -- if we just scroll down, please,
21 to the next page -- and you stayed with SND36 and SND37.
22 I am going to try and not name them for reasons that
23 will become clear, but the Inquiry knows exactly who is
24 being spoken about.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You lived there along with your brothers and sisters.

2 They had one other child themselves --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and they had adopted another child. Is that right?

5 **A. Correct.**

6 Q. Then there was the [REDACTED] of you.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You, as I discussed with you earlier, lived there for

9 [REDACTED] years until [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Now you describe in paragraph 11 a number of incidents
12 of sexual abuse at the hands of your foster father.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. The Inquiry Panel is able to read the detail of that and
15 I'm not going to go through the detail of that with you,
16 but that included you describing being raped.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You mentioned that -- I'm just going to -- the Panel has
19 the social work papers and can see the detail of this
20 and therefore I am just going summarise it for you now,
21 but what seems to happen is your older sister, who has
22 given evidence this morning, has a row in [REDACTED]
23 with your foster father --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and makes an allegation at that stage that she knows

1 what he's been doing to you and to your other sister.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Then your foster mother becomes aware of it, and at
4 SND-2439 -- just bring that up very briefly, please --
5 and the last -- just scroll down to the last paragraph.

6 You will see on [REDACTED] the foster father
7 advised -- this is Social Services -- of the allegations
8 that had been made concerning his behaviour and that
9 they had taken place some time ago, and you place them
10 in the first couple of years that you were with your
11 foster parents.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. During that period you would have been between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. He denied the allegations, but you and your [REDACTED] sisters
16 then left the foster placement in [REDACTED] and moved
17 into Nazareth House.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. It looks from the records that your other [REDACTED]
20 siblings, your [REDACTED] younger brothers and younger sister,
21 stayed on until [REDACTED] when your mum made
22 an allegation about their involvement with your youngest
23 sister.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You say that you don't think the police were involved,

1 and I'm just going to draw this to your attention,
2 because it's been drawn to the Inquiry's attention, to
3 help. If we look at SND-2525, this is a record of the
4 matter being recorded, and if we just look at the next
5 page, SND-2526, this is a report of [REDACTED] The
6 Panel will be able to see that the matter was reported
7 and it seems that, whether you recall it now or not,
8 HIA126, the matter was reported, and then the individual
9 was not prosecuted at the time.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Now I am not going to bring the records up, but for the
12 Panel's consideration the pages SND-14712 to
13 SND-14715 -- I appreciate this is difficult for you --
14 but those records show how the police reinterviewed this
15 individual in 2013 and he has admitted to the sexual
16 abuse that you described back in [REDACTED]

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. That includes his acceptance of raping you.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now as a result you are taken and placed in Nazareth
21 House and you stay there for a period of essentially one
22 year between -- or two years between [REDACTED] and
23 [REDACTED] but, as I was showing you earlier from the
24 record, your mum seems to have taken you out in and
25 around [REDACTED] You have gone back to live with her.

1 That breaks down due to her then partner assaulting you
2 --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and you then go to Social Services and say you want
5 to be taken back into care in [REDACTED], when you
6 were [REDACTED] --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- or [REDACTED] You then live in Nazareth House for another
9 year.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Now I know you couldn't recall it when I was showing you
12 it, but I was showing you earlier a record from **SR 22**
13 **SR 22**, who came later to Nazareth House and found your
14 behaviour by that stage difficult.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. At SND-2420 -- I should say just as the Panel considers
17 briefly this documents, the Social Service papers show
18 that you were regularly being visited by your social
19 worker. There were members of your family visiting.
20 I am not sure if you remember all of that now, HIA126.

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. No, you don't. What this shows, as we were looking at
23 earlier, is your behaviour by this stage had -- as far
24 as the particular nun dealing with you was concerned had
25 become very challenging.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Do you remember that now?

3 **A. The only thing I remember is when me and the brother**
4 **were away in America for six weeks, I remember coming**
5 **back from -- and going back into Nazareth House, and she**
6 **had my stuff sitting ready for me and says that, "You're**
7 **not staying here any more". That's what I remember, but**
8 **maybe I was cheeky or whatever, but I don't recall.**
9 **I just recall going to move to Fort James.**

10 Q. If we scroll down towards the bottom of the document,
11 the Panel will be able to see that the conclusion that
12 was reached was that by that point you were, in her
13 words, out of control and they weren't able to meet your
14 needs as they saw it, and you weren't gaining anything
15 by staying there and you moved to Fort James. The
16 American trip was through school. Is that right?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You and your brother were on that, and was that
19 a memorable occasion, that six weeks in America?

20 **A. I wanted to come home again.**

21 Q. You wanted to come home again. You were a long way from
22 home in America. Then you move into Fort James.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. When you're -- if we just go back to your witness
25 statement, just before I move to Fort James, you say at

1 SND-2406, that first line:

2 "Nazareth House was not as bad as Termonbacca."

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. You don't -- in the three paragraphs where you talk
5 about Nazareth House you don't have any complaints to
6 make about your time there.

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. How would you contrast your time -- what was different
9 about Nazareth House that made it better for you than it
10 was in Termonbacca?

11 **A. You weren't force fed food. It wasn't left for you to**
12 **eat the next day. You were not -- I wasn't checked if I**
13 **wet myself. I was -- you were allowed, you know, just**
14 **to go about and do whatever you had to do within reason**
15 **and you went to school, came back, done your homework**
16 **and nothing was -- if you wanted to go out, if you**
17 **weren't grounded, you were allowed out, not like**
18 **Termonbacca where you were in all the time.**

19 Q. So you have a positive experience.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Whatever about your -- described as your challenging
22 behaviour --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- as I summarised it, your recollection or memory of
25 Bishop Street --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- was of a better time than you had whenever you were
3 in Termonbacca.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Now you then move into Fort James and again you describe
6 this in paragraph 15 on page SND-2407. Again your
7 experience in Fort James was a positive one.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You have no complaints to make about your time that you
10 spent there.

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. We're not going to go through it, but a lot of effort
13 appears to have gone in from Social Services to help you
14 prepare for independent living --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- beyond care.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You describe that yourself in your statement, the last
19 sentence -- last two sentences:

20 "They helped you budget your money to prepare you to
21 go out and live in the world. They gave you a lot more
22 freedom."

23 Now when you were there, did you do something that
24 they were unhappy about?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You describe it as:

2 "I met a guy",

3 and you became pregnant.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Then you describe how in paragraph 16 that when you left
6 Fort James, you and that guy, as you describe him, have
7 been together and now married for almost [REDACTED] years.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You have [REDACTED] children of your own --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- [REDACTED] girls and [REDACTED] boys and you have got now [REDACTED]
12 granddaughters.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. But you also indicate that you foster [REDACTED] children.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You have had them since they were very young and they
17 are [REDACTED]

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. We were having a discussion beforehand, and I know this
20 can be difficult, but could you explain to the Inquiry
21 Panel why you, given what occurred to you, as it's now
22 been accepted, in your foster placement, why you decided
23 to foster children yourself?

24 **A. Because I didn't want them to go through what I went
25 through and not -- like I know they are not like that**

1 **now, but they didn't go into the care system the way**
2 **I was in the care system.**

3 Q. So let me just unpack that a little with you, if you
4 will, HIA126. Your -- your time in care is not
5 reflective of how you see the care system nowadays --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- and -- but you wanted to give a home to these
8 children --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- so that they weren't having to live in a children's
11 home.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Your interaction with Social Services, the Social
14 Services' involvement with the children, is a positive
15 one?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And do you get -- I'm sure it's tough work.

18 **A. Yes, it is.**

19 Q. But do you -- is it something that you take a great deal
20 of pride and joy from?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You describe in paragraph 17 that -- you indicate how
23 one of your sisters has struggled, has had trouble
24 moving on beyond what occurred for her.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Why have you been able to effectively move on and take
2 these positive steps, despite what occurred for you?

3 **A. Because I didn't want it to drag me down. I says, "I'm**
4 **just going to get up and get on with it".**

5 Q. You describe in paragraph 18 how your mother has passed
6 away.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Was it ever possible to reconcile with your mother
9 because of what had occurred during your childhood?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. You don't have a relationship with your --

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. -- father, but you do have contact and good
14 relationships with your siblings.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 18:

17 "All we knew was being in care all our lives until
18 I was almost 18."

19 Now you say you never reported the abuse that you
20 suffered to the police. You have -- whether you
21 remember doing it back in [REDACTED] or not, you have
22 certainly spoken to the police more recently --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and that's being taken forward by the authorities to
25 do with your foster father.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. What I'd like to ask you, HIA126, which we ask all of
3 the witnesses who come forward to the Inquiry, is the
4 Panel at the end of its work has to make recommendations
5 to the Northern Ireland Executive about what should be
6 done, whether that's some form of apology, whether it's
7 some memorial of some kind or whether there should be
8 some redress. Have you any view you'd want to set out
9 to the Panel about what they might recommend arising
10 from the Inquiry?

11 **A. Just to recognise what did happen in the homes, that we**
12 **were just put in there for -- because there was**
13 **somewhere for you to go, and just to just get a closure**
14 **to it all.**

15 Q. Has this experience, difficult though it is, been
16 helpful for you in verbalising what occurred?

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. This is your opportunity before the Inquiry to say
19 whatever it is you want to say about your experiences.
20 Is there anything else beyond what I've already covered
21 that you'd like to draw to the Panel's attention?

22 **A. No. That's -- whatever's done, that's -- that's all.**

23 Q. If you remain where you are, the Panel may have some
24 questions for you.

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA126. Can I just go back?

3 I just want to check one thing. If you were sent to bed
4 because you had wet yourself during the day at school,
5 did you get any food?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. So you were sent to bed and that would have been
8 a regular occurrence for you?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Okay. Thank you very, very much.

11 MR LANE: On the same line you mentioned about how the
12 porridge kept re-appearing. So what happened in the
13 end? Did they just throw it away in the end?

14 **A. They just threw it out then, yes. You would have got
15 it -- you would have got fresh stuff the next morning.**

16 Q. Did you get lunches at school?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Right. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA126, thank you very much for coming to
20 speak to us today. As far as we're concerned that's the
21 end of it. So if you want to leave the room now, you're
22 free to do so. Thank you again for coming.

23 **A. Thank you.**

24 **(Witness withdrew)**

25 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, that's the

1 witnesses for this morning and there should be another
2 witness this afternoon.

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Well, we'll rise now and
4 we'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

5 (12.25 pm)

6 (Short break)

7 (2.00 pm)

8 WITNESS HIA233 (called)

9 CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.

10 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
11 and gentlemen. This afternoon's witness is "HIA233".
12 She is known as HIA233.

13 HIA233, if would you just stand up, please, the
14 Chairman wishes to ask you something.

15 CHAIRMAN: HIA233, do you wish to take either a religious
16 oath or to make an affirmation? They have the same
17 legal effect. It's entirely a matter for you to choose.

18 **A. An oath.**

19 CHAIRMAN: An oath?

20 **A. An oath.**

21 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

22 WITNESS HIA233 (sworn)

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Sit down, please.

24 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

25 MS SMITH: Now, HIA233, if you can just speak into the

1 microphone.

2 MR DORAN: Chairman, if I can announce my appearance,
3 I appear for the individual with cipher number SND43 and
4 my instructing solicitors are McCartan, Turkington &
5 Breen.

6 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Doran.

7 MR RODGERS: Mr Chairman, I'd like to announce my appearance
8 on behalf of SND38. I~appear with Mr Ivor McAteer and
9 we are instructed by Patrick McDaid, solicitor.

10 MR KEARNEY: Mr Chairman, I appear on behalf of cipher
11 number SND283, instructed by Brendan Kearney & Company.

12 CHAIRMAN: Could I just have the number again? 283 did you
13 say?

14 MR KEARNEY: SND283.

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

16 MR KEARNEY: Thank you, your Lordship.

17 MS SMITH: Now, HIA233, I have explained to you that the
18 Inquiry has been giving anonymity to everyone who comes
19 forward to speak to it and also about people who are
20 spoken about. As you have heard, there have been
21 appearances announced for people who have been given
22 reference numbers. As you know, your reference number
23 is "HIA233".

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. So could we look at your statement, please, which is

1 SND-5561? If that could be put up on the screen,
2 please. The number is SND-5561. There appear to be
3 some technical difficulties, Chairman, with regard to
4 the witness statement and it is essential that we be
5 able to see it.

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course.

7 MS SMITH: So perhaps if the Panel wouldn't mind rising for
8 a short period and we'll see if we can sort out the
9 technical difficulties.

10 CHAIRMAN: Start again just as soon as we can get this
11 sorted out. Would you just stay, please, where you are,
12 HIA233, for the moment?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 **(2.20 pm)**

15 **(Short break)**

16 **(2.25 pm)**

17 MS SMITH: Thank you for the time, Chairman and Panel
18 Members. I believe we have the hiccough resolved. So
19 if we could please put up page SND-5561. HIA233, this
20 is the witness statement that you have provided to the
21 Inquiry. You will see that it says it is the witness
22 statement of HIA233, which is your name, and if we go to
23 the last page, which is SND-5572, you will see there
24 that there's a large black rectangle. Your signature is
25 underneath that on the copy that you have, and it's

1 dated -- what date is it -- yes, 25th November 2013.

2 Can you confirm, HIA233, that this is the witness
3 statement that you prepared for the Inquiry and you wish
4 the Inquiry to adopt that as your evidence?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Thank you. Now I have seen a number of Social Services
7 documents and they -- you talk about at paragraph 5 of
8 your witness statement about how you came to be in
9 residential care. You talk about being removed from
10 your foster parents when you were ■ years old.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You say you weren't told why.

13 "They just lifted us out after school one day",
14 and put you in Harberton House, and that that was
15 difficult, because the people that you were living with
16 were effectively your parents. You had been there since
17 you were a baby. Isn't that correct?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You later learned a reason why you were moved and that
20 was because of allegations made by ■ of your older
21 sisters. Now I've seen documentation from the Social
22 Services about this, and it shows that only ■ of
23 your sisters were taken from the foster parents, but you
24 and your ■ brothers were left in their care, and then
25 at one stage in ■ you were visiting your mother and

1 she refused to return you to the foster parents and she
2 made allegations against them regarding you, but she
3 eventually agreed to you going to Harberton House, and
4 we can see this in one document, which is SND-5599.

5 This is a social report of an untoward incident,
6 which is signed by a senior social worker, **SND 466**,
7 and it talks about you --

8 "The **████████** children went home to their mother for
9 a two-day visit in **████████** and she refused to permit
10 the youngest child to return to the foster home."

11 Then as a result of that, if we just scroll down to
12 the last paragraph, it says that you were taken into
13 residential care the following day, which was **████████**
14 and you were in Harberton House, and then there was
15 a complaint made and there was case conferences and
16 **SND 283** -- sorry -- your **████████** brothers joined you in
17 residential care on **████████**

18 I know from speaking to you that that isn't quite
19 your recollection, but you would accept the dates set
20 out there are probably accurate.

21 **A. No, I wouldn't. I wouldn't accept the dates are**
22 **accurate, no, because I would have been ██████. I didn't**
23 **make my Holy Communion with my foster family. I made my**
24 **Holy Communion from the said children's home.**

25 **Q. Yes, but what I'm -- so you're saying there that in ██████**

1 you would have been older?

2 **A. No, [REDACTED], the dates are right, but we were took --**
3 **the [REDACTED] oldest were took. The [REDACTED] bigger girls were**
4 **took and then we were took a couple of days later.**

5 Q. But you don't remember going into care and then your
6 brothers coming a few days after that.

7 **A. We went together.**

8 Q. Well, if we can move on to then you were placed in
9 Harberton House in [REDACTED] and then you went to -- your
10 older sisters went to Bishop Street and you remained in
11 Harberton House for a short period of time before you
12 were transferred to Bishop Street also, and you say in
13 your statement at paragraph 6 on page SND-5562 that you
14 don't really have much of a memory of your time -- those
15 few months in Harberton House before you went to
16 Nazareth House. Isn't that correct?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You say that you went to Nazareth House, Bishop Street
19 on [REDACTED], when you were [REDACTED], along with your two
20 brothers, and you stayed there until [REDACTED] You talk
21 about at that time Nazareth House was mixed and when you
22 first went in, it was made up of big rooms. The boys
23 slept in one big room and the girls in another. You
24 talk about eight children in each unit. You were in
25 [REDACTED] which was on the top floor, and you name two

1 nuns who were in charge of that unit at different times.

2 You also remember another nun, who called you all
3 "bastards", as you describe, at one time. You talk
4 about the head nun, who was an older nun and was good.
5 You told this head nun what the particular nun had said
6 about you and you say that she was shortly moved on.

7 **A. I never heard of her after it.**

8 Q. Right. You also talk about another nun who you say
9 worked in the home, [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED], left the Order and she was replaced by
11 SR2.

12 You also talk about another person who was in the
13 home and who got married from the home and you say she
14 was great and you give her married name there.

15 Can I ask what your earliest memory was of life in
16 Nazareth House at this time?

17 **A. We were there. I didn't want to be there. I remember
18 being told -- nobody ever told me why I was there.
19 I was just put there.**

20 Q. You say you were about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Did your mother visit you during your time there? You
23 do talk about this in paragraph 14.

24 **A. Yes. Not very often.**

25 Q. You say that she came about six times in total to see

1 you in Nazareth House.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You say you were forced to go and visit her --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- where she lived.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You never wanted to visit her, because you knew that all
8 there would be would be drinking and fighting. You say
9 your father was an alcoholic and they fought all the
10 time.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now when you say your father, this is the man who was
13 with your mother at that time.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Was he your actual father?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. "I knew I would be hit when I went down there and
18 I wouldn't get a dinner."

19 You were begging to be fostered out and you ran away
20 countless times you said. You say that your mother
21 never cared about you, but if there was a fight with the
22 welfare, she would always fight it.

23 "She would say she was coming up to visit us",

24 and you would stay back and wait for her to visit,
25 but then she didn't come after you had spent hours

1 waiting for her.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. From speaking to you earlier, HIA233, I think it is fair
4 to say that your mother has now died. Isn't that
5 correct?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But you didn't really have any relationship with her.
8 Is that fair?

9 **A. She was a mother, no.**

10 Q. The person that you identified as your mother was the
11 foster carer who looked after you from you were a baby.

12 **A. Absolutely.**

13 Q. Now your brothers were in the home with you. Did you
14 have much contact with them when you were in Nazareth
15 House?

16 **A. Aye. They were in the same unit.**

17 Q. Same unit. You talk about -- what about friendships?
18 Did you form friendships with other children in the
19 home?

20 **A. Some of them, but not what I would class as a friendship
21 now, like.**

22 Q. You haven't maintained any of those friendships?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. You talk at paragraph 8 of your statement about school
25 and you say that you went to [REDACTED] Primary School.

1 **A. I did.**

2 Q. That you didn't go to the school that was on the site --

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. -- of Nazareth House. You say the reason for that is
5 because you'd come from a foster home --

6 **A. Aye.**

7 Q. -- and you were already at school.

8 **A. We were already at that school, aye.**

9 Q. They didn't want to move you because that might upset
10 you too much.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You said you had to walk to school --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- but you say the children who were the nuns'
15 favourites were driven on a blue minibus by a staff
16 member who you name in that paragraph or one of the
17 staff who could drive.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You say you loved school. It was your escape. You were
20 bright and there were teachers at school who made you
21 feel good.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Great. What about food in the home? You do talk about
24 this in paragraph 11. You say you hated the food.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You say that you refused to eat it. You wouldn't eat
2 what you describe as the slop they brought you for
3 dinner. You say it was disgusting. Weekdays were all
4 right, because you ate the food in school.

5 "On a Saturday I was forced to sit at the table all
6 day and the same meal would be put in front of me over
7 and over again. They wouldn't even heat it up. If
8 I didn't eat it, it was forced down my throat and
9 I would vomit."

10 Q. You name a number of people --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- two nuns and three other people who worked in the
13 home who you said -- say force fed you. You say they
14 held your mouth and nose and forced the food into you.
15 You say that everyone in the dining room saw this.
16 Every time you threw up, they would just force it back
17 down your throat. You name one care worker -- one of
18 the workers in the home as being the worst for force
19 feeding. You say that she was a residential social
20 worker. You say that she said things, that she was
21 looking forward to meal times when she would take care
22 of you and you dreaded her being on duty at meal times.

23 You talk about another worker there who says that
24 she was there for about a year, and you say she knew
25 about this force feeding, and you say that you also told

1 your primary school teacher --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- about the nuns force feeding you, and you say that
4 you know that that teacher spoke to the staff about it,
5 because you were told not to be telling lies in school?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You say nothing changed after that and you were still
8 force fed, and as a result of this you say that you
9 don't have set meal times in your house because of the
10 way that you were treated, and your own children are
11 treated differently, and you just feed them when they're
12 hungry.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. You talk about the home kept an exercise book, as you
15 describe it, of everything each resident did in the home
16 on a daily basis, which included behaviour, how you were
17 doing at school, activities and meal times. You say the
18 staff filled in the books every evening.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You remember seeing this being done?

21 **A. Aye.**

22 Q. You say that all of this should be recorded on your file
23 and that one day one of the nuns showed you the books in
24 a vault which held all the records of each child.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So each child had a separate record.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were you ever shown the contents of your record?

4 A. On occasion we would have gone into the office room
5 and watched them writing it, especially, you know, if it
6 was -- if you were being good that did it. You would
7 have seen them writing it. It was just a wee ordinary
8 exercise book with our name on the front of it, each
9 wain.

10 Q. Well, I think the Panel have certainly seen handwritten
11 notes about children's times in care in respect of some
12 applicants and I believe in the documents we have there
13 are such notes in relation to your behaviour and your
14 activities during the school day --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- and so forth. Now can you remember ever being made
17 to work in the home or doing anything?

18 A. Not -- we had domestics. That's been -- no. Aye, you
19 had to do some stuff, but not ...

20 Q. But no complaints about the chores that you were asked
21 to do or anything like that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. What about special occasions in the home, Christmas,
24 Hallowe'en. Do you remember anything about those times?

25 A. Not so much happening. I don't really remember

1 Hallowe'en, to be honest, but Christmas was -- we got
2 presents. I wouldn't say we were treated bad at
3 Christmas. No, definitely not.

4 Q. Sorry, HIA233. Can you just speak --

5 A. We weren't treated bad at Christmas. I always got up
6 and there was presents.

7 Q. So Christmas was a good time in the home?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you ever remember music in the home, bands or choir
10 or anything like that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about pocket money? Did you get pocket money?

13 A. Aye, depending on your behaviour. You got it deducted
14 for bad behaviour, but ...

15 Q. But everyone was given pocket money?

16 A. Definitely.

17 Q. Day trips, do you recall any of those?

18 A. There would be a walk out the line to the swimming pool
19 on a Sunday if your behaviour warranted it.

20 Q. What about your birthday? What happened then?

21 A. It was great. I loved my birthday. It was the only day
22 of the week I didn't have the to eat what they put in
23 front of me. That was it. We got presents. We got our
24 cards.

25 Q. Now did you -- when you were there in the

1 there were social workers resident in the home. Isn't
2 that correct?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You do name some of those, and you had your own key
5 worker -- isn't that correct -- at that time?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Did other people from Social Services come to see you
8 when you were in the home or were you aware of them
9 coming?

10 **A. Yes. I had a social worker would come, yes.**

11 Q. I think you name her --

12 **A. Yes, I do.**

13 Q. -- was well in your statement. You talk about there
14 were reviews --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and they were regular.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Do you know -- were you ever involved in any of the
19 review meetings or would this --

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. Where would you have been?

22 **A. School.**

23 Q. Right. Now if I can move -- that's just to paint
24 a general picture of what life --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- in the home was like, but if I can ask you about some
2 of the specific allegations that you make in your
3 witness statement, and the first of these is at
4 paragraph 10, and you say in that paragraph that when
5 you were [REDACTED] years old, you were abused by your
6 [REDACTED], who you name, and you shared a room with
7 a number of girls who you name, and you can see that
8 their names are blacked out in the witness statement in
9 front of you, and that one of the older girls --
10 sorry -- one of the older girls was there as well.

11 Your brothers were in a separate room and you say
12 that this [REDACTED] came into your -- the room while you
13 were all in bed. He used the excuse that he was in to
14 see this particular girl who was about his age group,
15 and then you describe what he did to you in the bedroom,
16 and you said that that same thing happened nearly every
17 other night for weeks. You say that you told
18 a particular nun about the abuse. You told a staff
19 member who was there when you told the nun, and she was
20 -- in fact, the staff worker was your key worker.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. I can see that you are upset, HIA233. Are you okay to
23 continue?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. She -- your key worker you say later [REDACTED]

1

[REDACTED]

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You said that what -- when you did tell them, you were
4 put in a room and told not to mention it again, that you
5 weren't allowed to go swimming with the rest of the
6 group that day. You said that your -- that the nuns
7 then called your mother and she came down the next day.
8 When you told your mother, your mother slapped you in
9 front of the nun and told you not to be telling lies
10 about your [REDACTED].

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You say that you were taken to see, as you describe,
13 a psychiatrist in Clarendon Street every Friday for
14 about a year. You say they all thought you were mental.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. A priest who was attached to the home, he said you were
17 a disturbed child and that you were playing silly games.
18 You were never questioned about this abuse by the
19 police. You assume, therefore, that nobody ever
20 reported it.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. It was never mentioned again.

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. You were told not to mention it, so you didn't?

25 **A. I didn't.**

1 Q. Now you say that your brother not long after that was
2 sent to St. Patrick's Training School. So he left the
3 home --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and you didn't have to encounter him any more.

6 **A. No, I didn't have to see him no more.**

7 Q. You were told by your key worker that your mother had
8 said that you were making it up --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. --but you feel that this particular brother was, as you
11 describe it, her blue-eyed boy --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and she would have protected him.

14 **A. Yes, definitely.**

15 Q. Now just in relation to that you also say at
16 paragraph 15, if we can just move on quickly to that,
17 that you also would have told your social worker when
18 she came to visit --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- about the abuse --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- and also about the force feeding.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You say she put a stop to the feeding -- the force
25 feeding in the home, and had to bring you food you could

1 eat. You say she even brought you sweets and crisps.

2 You say where you think she now works.

3 Now can I just say that your [REDACTED] has given
4 a witness statement to the Inquiry, and I am just going
5 tell you what he says about the allegations that you
6 make about him. This can be found, Chairman, at
7 SND-15733. If that could be put up, please. No.

8 SND-15733. Apologies. 15733. Yes. You will see this
9 is a statement that is dated 26th February 2014. His
10 name is given there and he says that he has been taken
11 through the allegations made by you to the Inquiry.

12 He says you are his [REDACTED] and he can't
13 remember when he first learned that. He has considered
14 each of the allegations made against you in turn and he
15 denies each and every one of them.

16 He says he did spend time in Nazareth House and it
17 was not a pleasant experience at all:

18 "... and I have chosen to block out that part of my
19 life, as it is too painful for me to deal with.

20 I do not believe that I was in Harberton House in
21 '91-'92."

22 He gives his date of birth and says that in [REDACTED]
23 he would have been 16 or 17. He remembers leaving care
24 the week before he was 16 and having to find somewhere
25 to live. He goes on to say:

1 "I have considered why [she] would make these
2 allegations again me and I wonder is it because a sister
3 of mine", whom he names, [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 He goes on to speak about how he was accused and
11 prosecuted in respect of an allegation by another person
12 and that he was acquitted of that charge.

13 Now what do you wish to say to the Inquiry about his
14 denial and what he says in this statement, **HIA 233**

- 15 **A. He says it is Harberton House for a start. It didn't**
16 **happen in Harberton House. Again if it was for**
17 **compensation, would I not have sought a solicitor to**
18 **seek out compensation for it? Do you really think the**
19 **money would take it away? It's not about -- I have not**
20 **even spoke to -- other than the Inquiry I haven't spoke**
21 **to a solicitor about any compensation payment, and**
22 **I state that I am not in contact bar one sister.**
23 **I don't speak to any of my siblings. So it's definitely**
24 **compensation not, definitely not. It's not about that.**
25 **If it was, I surely would have spoke to somebody about**

1 **it already, which is not the case.**

2 Q. Just to be clear, HIA233, there are no records in your
3 social work records to indicate that your social worker
4 knew about the abuse or knew about the force feeding.
5 That's not recorded anywhere at any point.

6 **A. It doesn't surprise me.**

7 Q. But you say -- pardon?

8 **A. It doesn't surprise me it is not recorded.**

9 Q. Why -- why do you say that?

10 **A. Because from just speaking to you before now there's**
11 **some of them notes are wrong and from what knowledge**
12 **I've gathered actually I had never seen my own notes.**

13 Q. But you certainly dispute some of the things that are
14 recorded about you.

15 **A. Yes, I do. I dispute some of them, not all of them, but**
16 **I dispute some of them.**

17 Q. We have discussed the fact that you complain about being
18 force fed and you talk about in paragraph 12, if we can
19 go back to your statement at page SND-5564 -- at the
20 bottom of that page you talk about an occasion around
21 ██████, when you were about nine years old, your brother
22 had an operation on his testicle, and while he was
23 recovering on the sofa in the living room, the carer
24 from the old people's home was showing everyone his
25 wound.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You say you didn't want to look, but that the carer held
3 your head and made you look at that wound. Now I am not
4 going to ask for it to be pulled up, but you are aware
5 that this particular brother has also made a statement
6 to the Inquiry.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. In that statement he simply says that you watched while
9 the wound was being dressed, but he makes no mention
10 about you being held by the carer. Is there anything --

11 **A. I know what happened. I don't need it put in front of
12 me or anything. It's all in my memory.**

13 Q. There's another -- if we can move on then just down to
14 paragraph 13, where you say that the night before the 11
15 Plus test you became really ill. Now you make it plain
16 that you didn't want to do the test --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- and your mother had written to say that you didn't
19 have to do it, but that night you knocked on
20 a particular nun's door, even though you weren't
21 supposed to unless you were really ill, and you told her
22 that you were vomiting up black stuff --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and that you were really ill and she says to you,
25 "You're doing that test tomorrow".

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. She believed that you were trying simply to get out of
3 doing it.

4 **A. Get out of doing the test.**

5 Q. She left you lying all night on the bathroom floor while
6 she went into her bed and slept. The next morning she
7 came into the bedroom and nudged you. You said you were
8 sore and you were doubled over. So she got someone to
9 ring an ambulance.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You were accompanied to the hospital by one of the care
12 workers -- one of the residential workers, and it turned
13 out that your appendix had burst. You were operated on
14 and you think that she just left you there because --

15 **A. She wanted to sleep. She didn't care. She thought
16 I was faking. She thought I didn't want to do the test.**

17 Q. You say you were off school for a month afterwards.

18 **A. Yes, I was.**

19 Q. There is some evidence at SND-5575 and SND-5576 of your
20 admission to the hospital and discharge. You were
21 admitted on 28th May and discharged on 31st May. That
22 is the doctor's book, which is -- has been kept by the
23 Sisters of Nazareth and they recorded that in relation
24 to you.

25 Then there seems to be at SND-5576 a notification of

1 your admission to hospital while you were in care, and
2 it is signed by one of the nuns at the bottom, and it
3 talks about your symptoms and a preliminary diagnosis.

4 If you look at SND-5577, it talks about your weight
5 and general condition on discharge from hospital:

6 "3 and a half stones. Very weak. Considerable
7 amount of pain in her side and very poor appetite."

8 You are diagnosed with appendicitis, but, in fact,
9 you did actually have an operation.

10 **A. Yes, I had my appendix removed.**

11 Q. I'll come back to you. The care worker, as you
12 appreciate, you talk about in other aspects, and he
13 accompanied you to the hospital. He talks about that
14 and we will come back to that.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. One of the things you say about that particular care
17 worker at paragraph 15, you say that the civilian
18 staff -- sorry. If we could go back to page SND-5565,
19 and paragraph 15, bottom of that page, you say:

20 "The civilian staff at Nazareth House were cruel to
21 us."

22 You remember a person you name there as SND38,
23 a social worker, and SND43. They would throw your two
24 brothers into freezing cold baths and showers, and you
25 saw another staff member, who is named there as SND44,

1 hit your brother with the back of his hand. You say
2 that some of these people are still working in homes and
3 you don't think that's right.

4 You describe one, SND43, as a [REDACTED] working
5 in a children's home on the [REDACTED]

6 You say:

7 "She was awful. She was a very big woman. She used
8 to hit me on the back of the head whilst I was walking
9 along the corridor and bumped into me deliberately."

10 You say:

11 "She would buy our silence with hairbands and things
12 whenever my social worker would visit. I had a good
13 relationship with [your social worker] and told her", as
14 you've said, "about the abuse."

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 16 to describe how you were
17 treated by the social workers in the home.

18 "On one occasion", two people that you name there,
19 "SND38 and SND39 threw me and another girl into a room
20 and told us to beat each other. We had never really
21 got -- we had never got along. We were just two girls
22 who clashed."

23 You say she's actually a friend of yours now. You
24 ask her if she remembered what happened. She said she
25 didn't. She said she didn't want to be part of the

1 Inquiry.

2 There was another girl who you name who went to
3 [REDACTED] and all of the staff in the
4 home, including these three people who you name, called
5 her a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED]

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You say she was always put in a room on her own so that
8 visitors wouldn't see her.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You talk -- if I can just pause there to say that
11 each -- well, two of these three people that you name
12 have provided the Inquiry with witness statements, and
13 I~am just going to put to you what they each say in
14 their statements. If we can deal, first of all, with
15 SND43, SND43. If we could go to go page SND-15873,
16 please. 15873. No. 15873. There seems to be some
17 difficulty. The correct number is being keyed into the
18 system, Chairman, but ...

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, do we need to see this document? Can it be
20 summarised?

21 MS SMITH: I can certainly put what's in it. There is
22 a substantial number of paragraphs, which deals with
23 each of the allegations made, Chairman, so it might be
24 appropriate to have it, but I can certainly read it in
25 the meantime.

1 CHAIRMAN: Carry on and just hopefully the staff will keep
2 trying to bring up the right page.

3 MS SMITH: If we can, in fact, go to -- if we can get --
4 bypass a number of the pages and go to SND-15877. If
5 that can be pulled up. In the meantime essentially what
6 this care worker says, she proposes to address those
7 paragraphs in which you make allegations again her in
8 your witness statement.

9 She says about force feeding, that she categorically
10 denies force feeding you. She also categorically denies
11 threatening you in the manner implicitly alleged in your
12 paragraph 11. She says the allegations are entirely
13 false and without foundation. She also categorically
14 denies throwing your brothers into freezing cold baths
15 or showers and she says that's false and without
16 foundation.

17 She says that [REDACTED], who she names, was
18 not a member of staff of Nazareth House. Now can I just
19 pause there? You have named this person who you say was
20 a staff member. What do you want to say to the Inquiry
21 about that?

22 **A. He was an adult in that home. We had to do what he told**
23 **us. So I assumed he was staff. You know, for an adult**
24 **-- you know, if it was a visitor, we would have been**
25 **told, "There's a visitor. This is such and such". He**

1 **was just there and I assumed he was staff.**

2 Q. He was there frequently?

3 **A. He was there loads of times.**

4 Q. She talks about the incident in which he is alleged to
5 have hit your brother. She says that didn't happen.

6 She also says that she's never worked in a
7 children's home on the [REDACTED]. She
8 categorically denies hitting or deliberately bumping
9 into you.

10 She says that she did regularly purchase small gifts
11 for the children in care, but that this was motivated
12 simply by kindness and the allegation that she bought
13 silence with gifts is utterly false.

14 She talks then about the girl who you have described
15 as attending a [REDACTED].

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. There's some discussion about what that child's name
18 was, but I think, having spoken to you, we are in
19 agreement that it is the same child.

20 **A. Yes, it is.**

21 Q. She says that she had [REDACTED] and suffered from
22 a condition known as [REDACTED]

23 "I categorically deny the allegation that I called
24 this child a [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED]. I have never
25 referred to any child in such terms."

1 For the avoidance of doubt the final sentence of
2 your paragraph 16, while not being specifically directed
3 against her, she also denies putting that child in
4 a room on her own.

5 She talks about your witness statement at
6 paragraph 32 where you make generalised allegations and
7 she denies the allegation within that paragraph.

8 She goes on to say that she has seen you on a couple
9 of occasions since she left -- since you left Nazareth
10 House, and she says she saw you in about the late '90s.
11 She met you with one of your children in the [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED].

13 "She introduced" -- that's you introduced -- "the
14 child to her, told me about her family and drew to the
15 child's attention the fact that I had looked after
16 HIA233 when she was a child. We had a perfectly
17 amicable conversation. She made no mention of the
18 allegations that she now makes in her statement.

19 On a subsequent occasion in around five years ago as
20 far as I can recollect I saw her in [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]. I waved at her and she
22 acknowledged my wave in return."

23 Now can I ask you, HIA233, what do you say? I mean,
24 obviously she has made denials of all the allegations
25 you made against her.

1 **A. Obviously.**

2 Q. But what do you say about meeting her after you left
3 care?

4 **A. At no time would I ever introduce anybody. My children**
5 **are aware -- the older ones are aware, yes, I was in**
6 **a home, but they aren't aware of anything, nor would**
7 **I ever introduce a woman of care to one of my -- they**
8 **would have been babies in the late '90s. So where --**
9 **here this baby is going to understand? She is a**
10 **categorical liar. I -- and [REDACTED] it is not her**
11 **I-used to see. It is another member of staff who lives**
12 **-- I believe still lives there -- when I lived in the**
13 **same area, who I wave to frequently and I have no**
14 **problem waving to her, but no, I finished (?) it. She**
15 **is lying.**

16 Q. So you're saying that she may be mistaken about who you
17 were waving to on that occasion?

18 **A. Yes, definitely.**

19 Q. But -- well, do you remember meeting her in the late
20 '80s at all at [REDACTED]

21 **A. I met her at one stage, but it wasn't -- it was -- it**
22 **wouldn't have been -- I wouldn't have had one of the**
23 **wains with me. Definitely not. I don't ever remember**
24 **introducing any of my wains to anybody -- or one.**

25 Q. Is it possible you might have met her?

1 **A. No. I have seen her about. I have seen her. I have**
2 **never had a conversation with the woman. I have no wish**
3 **to do so either.**

4 Q. Now then if we could -- I don't know if the system will
5 allow us to, but there is the statement of the other
6 residential care worker, and this can be found at
7 page SND-15854, but if we can just say that he sets out
8 his personal details and his time in the home and gives
9 a description of the home in that witness statement, and
10 then specifically deals with the allegations you make
11 about him at page SND-15864. It doesn't look as though
12 we're going to be able to pull that up. So I am going
13 to have to do quite a bit of reading here, HIA233. So
14 bear with me.

15 He said -- he vehemently denies all the allegations
16 made against you in the statement. He talks about
17 working in Nazareth House when you were there with your
18 brothers and he describes you as a child who presented
19 with many challenging behavioural problems. What do you
20 say about that?

21 **A. I was in a home. I didn't like it. Of course I was**
22 **a child.**

23 Q. So you would accept that you had challenging behavioural
24 problems?

25 **A. Based on the way I was treated in that home, aye, of**

1 **course I did.**

2 Q. He says that during his -- your time with -- in Nazareth
3 House he had a good relationship with you, as did other
4 residential staff who worked there, and he goes on to
5 say that you are wrong about the nun [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] that that's untrue. He says that she was a nun
7 who worked in a different unit to you, that that nun did

8 [REDACTED]

9 The nuns who accompanied the children on a holiday to
10 Westport were different nuns, one of whom was the
11 principal of the primary school. They went along with
12 members of staff, including himself.

13 **A. Didn't go.**

14 Q. She said -- he says that it is untrue that he drove
15 other children to school who were the nuns' favourites.
16 He says when he drove the minibus, he took all children
17 that required transport and no child was ever excluded
18 for any reason. Is there any -- stop me if there's
19 anything you wish to say about any of these.

20 **A. I am sure the school knows we walked to and from school,
21 because there has been many occasion when there has been
22 other -- that's how I met a foster family was walking to
23 and from the same school. So how was I took to school
24 on the minibus?**

25 Q. He says that you talk about somebody working in [REDACTED]

1 That's incorrect. That particular person worked in the
2 home for the elderly in Nazareth House.

3 He said -- you said that you shared a bedroom with
4 eight other girls. He said:

5 "That's also untrue. The four children had their
6 own private bedroom, which would have been from about
7 [REDACTED]. Residents shared larger bedrooms -- two or three
8 residents shared a large bedroom, but never was a bed
9 occupied by nine residents", as you have stated.

10 **A. Were they not? They were. I was in that room. Before**
11 **the renovations we were all -- during the renovations we**
12 **were all put into one room, during the renovations.**

13 Q. So you were present when the home was being renovated?

14 **A. Yes, I was.**

15 Q. Excuse me. Talking about the force feeding and being
16 force fed by him, he says that's also untrue and he
17 denies it. He says that all children ate together in
18 the dining room at the same time. He never force fed
19 you, nor did he assist anyone else to do so. He was
20 present at meal times for many years and never ever did
21 he witness you being force fed by anyone. You were
22 never made to sit all day at the dining table. Neither
23 was the same food repeatedly served to you. All uneaten
24 food was put in a bin and disposed of immediately after
25 the meal was finished. He says that you say that it was

1 witnessed by everyone in the dining room, and he says
2 yes, if that had happened, then people would have seen
3 it.

4 **A. Of course he's going to deny it.**

5 Q. He talks about the appendix operation --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and he agrees that he accompanied you to hospital,
8 but he says that you didn't tell him that you were left
9 to lie overnight on the bathroom floor.

10 **A. That's where I was, on the bathroom floor. I was**
11 **carried from the bathroom floor out of it by him.**

12 Q. Did you tell him that you had been there all night?

13 **A. Yes. Everybody knew I was there all night.**

14 Q. He says that at the hospital he stayed with you --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- until you were ready to go to theatre.

17 **A. Yes, him and another member of staff, yes.**

18 Q. He said, "I recall that ..." from arriving in the ward
19 you held his hand and didn't let go to such an extent
20 that he had actually to go right down to you as your bed
21 was pushed by a porter from ward to the door of the
22 operation theatre, which was -- only then were you
23 persuaded to let go of him.

24 **A. Yes, I was terrified.**

25 Q. He says that you often reminisced about this many years

1 after the event and found it very funny.

2 **A. I did think it funny, because I was terrified.**

3 Q. You say -- he says it is untrue that the staff at
4 Nazareth House were cruel. He said he worked with many
5 different members over many years and found everyone
6 without exception to be exceptionally caring and
7 committed to the children they cared for, and he denies
8 throwing your brothers into freezing cold baths and
9 showers. He also -- sorry.

10 **A. That's okay.**

11 Q. He also denies that he and another member of staff threw
12 you and another girl into a room to beat each other up.
13 He said he never encouraged any children to fight, nor
14 did any other member of staff.

15 He says that the allegation you make about the child
16 with special needs and being called names and being
17 hidden away from visitors is also untrue. He said that
18 that particular child's parents visited the unit
19 regularly. No child was ever referred to in such
20 derogatory terms by staff, nor was any child ever hidden
21 away when visitors were called to the unit.

22 **A. He's lying.**

23 Q. He has -- obviously we can't put this up, but attached
24 to his statement was -- is a plan of [REDACTED]
25 approximately, round about [REDACTED].

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You have looked at that.

3 **A. That's after the renovations, yes.**

4 Q. That's after the renovations. In that it is described
5 there seems to be a group of three bedrooms which have
6 an entrance off a hall. Would that have been one
7 bedroom --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- previously?

10 CHAIRMAN: Is there a number for the plan?

11 MS SMITH: Yes. Sorry, chairman. It is SND-15867.

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 MS SMITH: Now if we can go back, HIA233, to your own
14 witness statement, just to confirm that each of these
15 people that you've made allegations about from whom we
16 have received a witness statement have made categorical
17 denials --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- of the allegations that you make. Is there anything
20 you want to the say to the Inquiry about that?

21 **A. It is not like they are going to say, "Yes, we did".**

22 Q. Now I indicated to you that there was a large bundle of
23 Social Services --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- material on you and your family, and in those

1 documents, which I don't believe we are going to be able
2 to pull up on the screen, but I can give some numbers,
3 they describe what might be described as challenging
4 behaviour. They quite clearly show that there were
5 Social Services reviews --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- which you have accepted and planning for your time in
8 care. You wanted to be fostered again and there was
9 planning for that.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. One family that you talk about, a foster placement, in
12 paragraph 20 of your statement, if we could just go to
13 that, which is at page SND-5567. I am not sure if we
14 are going to be able to call any document up, but we'll
15 try anyway. You say you were fostered out from [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] You went there for about a year and you watched
17 that foster family's marriage break down.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You go on to describe why that happened. You say you
20 told your social worker you didn't want to stay there
21 any longer. When she asked why, you said that it was
22 because your foster mother pulled your hair, but that
23 wasn't true, was it?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. You just simply wanted --

1 **A. I knew if they told them that they would have to remove**
2 **me straightaway and I wouldn't be forced to stay there.**

3 Q. So the other thing that I wanted to say is it's clear
4 from documents that I have seen and again are in the
5 bundle, and I can give some page references for them,
6 that there were a number of attempts to introduce you to
7 this particular foster family before you actually went
8 to go there permanently.

9 One of the things that I talked to you about was
10 a note, a handwritten note, that I~had seen that had
11 been recorded indicating that you -- this particular
12 foster parent was unwilling to have you at weekends and
13 unwilling to have you back because of, for example,
14 an incident involving a neighbour's child --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and you taking a creme egg off that child.

17 **A. I thumped her and rammed it down her throat. She called**
18 **me a bastard. I was a wain in a home. Do not call me**
19 **a bastard. I was filled by the same (?). I don't like**
20 **the word. It's not a nice word to be called and**
21 **I~didn't like being called it. So I thumped her and**
22 **battered her. I was 12. It's not like I'm going to do**
23 **it now, but yes, I did do it.**

24 Q. You accept there is quite challenging behaviour
25 described in the social worker's reports about you being

1 aggressive and about you --

2 **A. I was never aggressive. That was the way they made me.**

3 **I was bad -- I was never a bad -- if you -- if they look**

4 **back over the notes, they will see I was quite a happy**

5 **wee wain until they took me, and then when things**

6 **happened, of course, I rebelled.**

7 Q. And in any --

8 CHAIRMAN: Can we just have the general page references, Ms

9 Smith?

10 MS SMITH: I can give the Inquiry a number of

11 page references, Chairman, but, I mean, just --

12 CHAIRMAN: I meant where they start and where they finish.

13 MS SMITH: That could be difficult, because they are not in

14 sequence, Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN: I see.

16 MS SMITH: I will certainly provide the Inquiry Panel

17 Members with a number of page references, but just to

18 give an example of some of the things that I did say to

19 you that is recorded in the statements is, for example,

20 at SND-5576 it talks about you making satisfactory

21 progress. It says at SND-10472 that you were being

22 monitored by social workers, because of concerns about

23 your sexualised behaviour. It says you have bouts of

24 temper at SND-10475. It talks about you making good

25 academic progress at school --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- at SND-10591. I know this is one particular entry
3 that you took issue with --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- where it says that you were extremely loyal to your
6 mother --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- at SND-10596, and you don't accept that --

9 **A. Absolutely categorically not. If my ma says one thing,
10 I done the opposite. Hence wanting fostered out. She
11 hated us being in foster care, so I wanted to be in
12 foster care. I had no -- my mother was not a mother to
13 me. So, therefore, I never seen that woman as a parent
14 to me.**

15 Q. At one stage it is recorded that there was considerable
16 improvement in your behaviour and you were making
17 efforts to control your temper and that's at SND-10609.
18 The same document records you eating well, and said --
19 the next page goes on to say there's an improvement in
20 school but you still require constant supervision. It
21 says that you are not popular with your peers and that
22 you dominate during play at SND-10620.

23 There is another entry, which I know you take issue
24 with --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- which says you were very influenced by your sister
2 HIA126.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. That's SND-10623. You take issue with that for
5 a particular reason. Isn't that correct?

6 **A. She wasn't in Nazareth with me.**

7 Q. She wasn't there?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. Did she come to visit you?

10 **A. I remember meeting her one time down the stairs outside**
11 **and seeing her. I says, "My ma is going to kill you"**
12 **referring to my foster mother, "for wearing that skirt".**
13 **You're not allowed to wear a black leather skirt.**
14 **HIA126 never come to see me.**

15 Q. You were visited by another sister. Is that correct?

16 **A. Yes, I was.**

17 Q. I should also say that social work reports -- and
18 I hadn't actually discussed this with you earlier --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- but they do record that your brother who you say
21 abused you after this period of time, he regularly
22 visited during the '90s. Do you recall that?

23 **A. My brother regularly visited?**

24 Q. I will just find the actual reference if you bear with
25 me. I am sorry. I will get that reference, but in any

1 event there's -- it's one these case review documents --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- which indicates that this particular brother was
4 visiting you regularly in the home with your other
5 brother. The two of them are older than you. Isn't
6 that correct?

7 **A. Yes, they were older.**

8 Q. So you would have been in care longer than them?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. But they would have come and visited you afterwards. Do
11 you remember that?

12 **A. One of them. Not the one who was sent to St. Pat's
13 without naming names, but that was because he was
14 fostered out.**

15 Q. Right. Okay. Well, if we can just -- I mean, I've
16 indicated some of the documents and while you -- you
17 don't actually dispute that a lot of the material that
18 was written about you is accurate. Isn't that correct?

19 **A. Aye. I was a wee monster.**

20 Q. And as a child you accept then --

21 **A. Of course.**

22 Q. -- that the social workers who looked after you and the
23 nuns who looked after you probably had their work cut
24 out, if I can put it that way?

25 **A. Maybe if they had looked after me, I wouldn't have been**

1 **such a monster.**

2 Q. Now you move to Harborton House in 1991 and at
3 paragraph 21 of your statement, which is on
4 page SND-5567, you talk about your time there. You say
5 that you would have been about ■ at this time.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. It was run by a social worker who you name and you give
8 his nickname --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- or what you called him. You say you don't have a bad
11 word to say about that man.

12 "He cared for us all, but things happened on his
13 grounds that shouldn't have happened. There were about
14 10 or 12 in each unit and there were two units."

15 You say that your brothers -- when you were moved
16 there, your brothers were already there.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Now you've heard that the brother you say abused you has
19 said that at that stage he would have been 16 or 17 and
20 he was no longer in care.

21 **A. He was there. He was there at the other end before we
22 moved to the long-term end.**

23 Q. This is just as you arrived. Is that what you're
24 saying?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You said to a staff member that you weren't staying in
2 a room where he was and he just said I had to, because
3 I was there in an emergency placement. You slept in the
4 bathroom. You put the duvet in the bath and lay there
5 all night with the door locked.

6 Now is it correct that in Harberton House family
7 members would have been put in together? Is that why
8 you were objecting to staying with your brother?

9 **A. I did not want to stay in the same room as him at all.**

10 Q. You describe this particular staff member as a big brute
11 of a man. He would grab you by the neck and batter you.
12 You say that the person in charge knew that [REDACTED] did this
13 to you, but he didn't do anything about it. You
14 remember seeing him trail a young boy who you name down
15 a corridor. You say where he lives. You said he was an
16 ex-rugby player and that he also slapped and beat your
17 younger sister.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Your mother went on to have other children after you.
20 Isn't that correct?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You say your mother and father came to the home to
23 report it. Now when you say your mother and father,
24 these were your original foster parents?

25 **A. No, that's the old doll and my da.**

1 Q. This was your actual mother and father?

2 **A. Aye, the one that gave birth to me.**

3 Q. You say you think he ended up taking early retirement
4 because there were so many complaints about him. Can
5 I just say to you, HIA233, that the Social Services have
6 checked this particular worker's personnel file and
7 there's nothing in it to show that he received any
8 complaints about his behaviour and there's certainly no
9 disciplinary matters in his file.

10 **A. Of course they didn't discipline him. They got off with
11 doing what they wanted.**

12 Q. In paragraph 22 you go on to say what happened to you in
13 Harborton House, and you say that you were raped by
14 another child who was about 13.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You say he was about two years older than you. You go
17 on to describe what happened in that paragraph and,
18 without going into it in any detail, that matter was, in
19 fact, reported to the police. Isn't that correct?

20 **A. I did not report it, but it was told from the Inquiry,
21 aye.**

22 Q. But the Social Services reported it and the police
23 investigated it. Were you aware of that? Do you
24 remember going down --

25 **A. I remember being told absolutely nothing. I remember**

1 speaking to a member of staff and I told her what
2 I wanted, two years in the Training School.

3 Q. So you wanted?

4 A. I wanted away. She told me I was going end up in
5 a training school. I said, "So it be".

6 Q. Can I just show you a document -- I don't know if we are
7 going to be able to pull this up, but it is SND-15414.
8 If we could just enlarge that, please. HIA233, this is
9 a document I showed to you earlier. This a witness
10 statement of a police officer and it is dated
11 9th November 1992.

12 She says that she saw you at Strand Road RUC
13 Station. You were accompanied by a [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] who was a residential social worker at Harberton
15 House, and she recorded a statement from you into
16 an alleged incident which occurred at Harberton House
17 Children's Home in October '92. She says that you
18 refused to be medically examined. Do you have
19 a recollection now of going to the police and talking
20 about this incident?

21 A. I have spoke to them, but not -- it wasn't in the police
22 station, and it certainly wasn't -- I didn't know it was
23 a police person, to be honest, but I can tell you
24 I never refused any medical. I have a document. As
25 I says to you outside this room, that I have no idea how

1 I got this document. It must have been in something
2 that I was give over the years. The categor... -- it's
3 my mother's signature refusing a statement and I don't
4 know the date on it -- refusing a medical to be done for
5 me, and I can tell you I am leaving this Inquiry with
6 more questions than I came into it with.

7 Q. Certainly you believe that your mother refused to allow
8 you to be examined, but you didn't --

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. -- which, given your age, is entirely possible. You
11 would accept that?

12 A. Well, where would -- at the age I was, you know, we
13 didn't have a say whenever we were going to the
14 doctor's. You were took. You got your -- you know, the
15 usual medical and all. I never remember refusing any
16 kind of medical.

17 Q. But in any event she goes on to say that during the
18 interview you told her about the allegation about your
19 brother and that happening approximately six years ago,
20 but you refused to comment further on the matter when
21 you were asked about it.

22 She saw you again then at the Children's Home a
23 couple of days later, and again the same social worker
24 was with you, and she said that the reason for that
25 interview was to clear up ambiguity resulting from the

1 original interview that you gave to police. She says
2 that you were most uncooperative and abusive and
3 continually used foul language. You stated that you had
4 nothing further to say or add to the statement you had
5 already made and that your statement was true. When you
6 were asked about the alleged incidents involving your
7 brother, you again stated -- you got verbally abusive
8 and stated you didn't wish to discuss the matter with
9 her or anyone else.

10 Now, HIA233, you say you don't know whatever
11 happened to the allegations that you made at that time.
12 Isn't that correct?

13 **A. Yes, I don't.**

14 Q. But would you accept that the Inquiry has received
15 documents to show that it resulted in no prosecution and
16 that the person against whom you made the allegation was
17 never prosecuted?

18 **A. I will accept that, but I would accept a whole lot of
19 your documentation isn't fact, considering they were
20 writ by the same people that was meant to care for us or
21 look after us, whatever they want to call it.**

22 Q. In any event that particular allegation is related there
23 in paragraph 22 of your witness statement.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You say that -- you talk about the person who you name

1 there, and talk about you told your mother and she sent
2 your sister down to see you.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. This is in paragraph -- sorry -- page SND-5568. You
5 told this sister to say to your mother that you were
6 going to be sent to the Training School the next day.
7 Now you said there was no particular reason for you to
8 go to the Training School, only your own wish to go
9 there. Is that correct?

10 **A. I was told that I was lying basically, these lies again**
11 **by this person I name there who was over our unit at**
12 **that end. She says, "You are going to end up in a**
13 **Training School". I says, "So it be". I says, "Send me**
14 **there". I actually -- at that stage I didn't care.**

15 Q. So your mother then told [REDACTED] you believe, and
16 it was front page story for two weeks --

17 **A. I believe that was the [REDACTED], yes.**

18 Q. -- that you were moved to the training school. The
19 headline read, [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]".

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You wanted -- you say you wanted to report it to the
23 police, but nothing happened and you weren't ever
24 interviewed, but would you accept now that you were, in
25 fact, interviewed by police?

1 **A.** I was spoke to by a woman in the office along with the
2 other person named in that and her that was over us in
3 the office, in that home, but never in the station. So,
4 you see, I believe that's why some of these things are
5 documented when -- I beg to differ. I was never -- to
6 my knowledge remember being for that one incident ever
7 in a station.

8 **Q.** Well, in any event you did actually go then to
9 Middletown -- isn't that correct --

10 **A.** **Yes.**

11 **Q.** -- to St. Joseph's Middletown. You describe your time
12 there in paragraphs 23 through to 28.

13 **A.** **Yes.**

14 **Q.** Essentially there are some things that you say there
15 where you were called names by certain nuns, and you
16 were given cigarettes in paragraph 25, and you also
17 describe being trailed by the hair in paragraph 26, but
18 you say that you had no complaints about Middletown --

19 **A.** **No.**

20 **Q.** -- and you actually liked it there.

21 **A.** **Loved it.**

22 **Q.** You then walked out of it. Is that correct?

23 **A.** **Aye.**

24 **Q.** Why was that?

25 **A.** I just -- they let me out to my sister one time for

1 **a week-end and I never went back.**

2 Q. If fact, you say that whenever -- you actually asked the
3 resident magistrate at that time in Derry Court to keep
4 you in, because you liked it so much.

5 You then, as you say, went to your sister's house
6 and you stayed and never went back to Middletown. Isn't
7 that correct?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You say that the nuns tried to get you back by promising
10 that they would give you money.

11 **A. Licence. It was when you left, you got £50 on licence.**
12 **I says, "I haven't got mine".**

13 Q. You still haven't got yours?

14 **A. I don't want it. They can keep it.**

15 Q. You became pregnant shortly after you left care. You
16 say at that time, because of your age, Social Services
17 wanted to appoint a social worker to look after your own
18 child but you refused, and you had never had any Social
19 Service involvement with your children.

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. You now are married and have [REDACTED] children.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. One of them has health difficulties. Actually you
24 describe [REDACTED] of them have -- [REDACTED] of them in total
25 have health difficulties, but I know that you received

1 a telephone call today about one of them just as we were
2 speaking.

3 You describe that you are not in contact with your
4 siblings now. You never had a close relationship with
5 your mother, because she didn't believe you about the
6 abuse, and you feel that the adults, particularly the
7 two that you named there, and you say were meant to
8 protect you didn't.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Is that how you feel today when you think back about the
11 people who cared for you?

12 **A. They didn't care for me.**

13 Q. You say that everything that happened to you has
14 affected you as an adult, and you have recently spoken
15 again to police --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- about what you say happened, and you describe
18 where -- that your [REDACTED] who you claim abused you
19 actually lives not that far from you. Isn't that
20 correct?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Now finally, HIA233, is there anything that you feel
23 that we haven't covered or you haven't had the
24 opportunity to say to the Inquiry that you would like to
25 add to what we have discussed?

1 **A. I will be questioning some of the notes that they said**
2 **staff members made.**

3 Q. One question that we are asking everyone and it is that
4 the Inquiry has to make recommendations, not, as I said
5 previously, to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive,
6 but to the Northern Ireland Executive, and I want to ask
7 you now, HIA233, have you thought about that and
8 whether -- what your view is, whether it should be
9 an apology, whether redress or whether there should be
10 some memorial for people who have been abused in care?

11 **A. There should be some memorial.**

12 Q. Have you any views on what form that memorial ought to
13 take?

14 **A. I don't know. It shouldn't involve any of the staff**
15 **anyway.**

16 Q. Okay. Thank you very much, HIA233. If you just stay
17 there, the Chairman and Panel Members may have some
18 questions for you.

19 CHAIRMAN: Has HIA233 been asked about maintaining her
20 anonymity?

21 MS SMITH: Yes, I did ask and she wishes to do so. I think
22 I outlined that at the outset, Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA233. We don't have any
24 questions for you. Thank you for coming to speak to us
25 today. So as far as we are concerned you don't need to

1 stay in the chamber any longer if you wish to leave.

2 (Witness withdrew)

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

4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. 10.30 tomorrow.

5 (3.25 pm)

6 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)

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