
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Thursday, 8th May 2014

commencing at 10.30 am

(Day 33)

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

1 Thursday, 8th May 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS SR2 (called)

4 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. If we
5 could turn on the screens, please.

6 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just
7 before we start can I remind everybody that although
8 this session today will involve the lady we see on the
9 screen giving evidence by way of Livelink, it is
10 nonetheless a session of the Inquiry and today, as on
11 every other day, I have to remind everybody that no
12 photography of any sort is allowed either in the Inquiry
13 chamber or within the building. Thank you.

14 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman.

15 Good morning, sister. Can you hear me okay?

16 **A. I can, Christine. I can, Christine.**

17 Q. And you can see me?

18 **A. I can, yes.**

19 Q. That's great. Sister, we spoke earlier and I am going
20 to be asking you the questions this morning, but the
21 first person who is going to speak to you now is the
22 chairman, who is going ask you about taking the oath.
23 The Chairman is going to speak to you.

24 CHAIRMAN: Now, sister, I take it you would like to take
25 a religious oath. Is that right?

1 **A. Yes, please.**

2 **WITNESS SR2 (sworn)**

3 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, sister, if at any stage you
4 can't hear what we're saying, please don't hesitate to
5 ask for it to be repeated.

6 **A. Thank you, your Honour.**

7 CHAIRMAN: Secondly, if at any stage you feel that you need
8 to have a break, please don't hesitate to say so.

9 **A. Thank you, your Honour.**

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

11 Now it has just occurred to me may I ask

12 Mr Montague: is there somebody who is with SR2?

13 MR MONTAGUE: Yes, Mr Canavan is in the room with SR2. If
14 SR2 could confirm that, please.

15 **A. Mr Canavan is here with me and Marie.**

16 CHAIRMAN: I am thinking more that she wasn't on her own in
17 the sense that if she felt unwell, there would be
18 somebody there who could, if necessary, come to the
19 screen and inform us.

20 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. Just let me -- I don't need to delay
21 matters, but I can speak to SR107.

22 CHAIRMAN: I take it that is the case from what SR2 has
23 said.

24 MR MONTAGUE: Yes. I think it's a member of the Inquiry
25 team that's present.

1 MS SMITH: Yes, that's correct, Chairman. A member of the
2 Inquiry is present as well as Mr Canavan, who we can see
3 on the screen now.

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. It is really just to put that on record and
5 to reassure the Panel that there is somebody with the
6 witness.

7 MR CANAVAN: Chairman, I am with the witness, and if there
8 is any issue, I will raise that directly with you.
9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Canavan.

11 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

12 MS SMITH: Back to me again, sister. You can see and hear
13 me okay?

14 **A. I can, Christine.**

15 Q. Sister, just to confirm you have provided two witness
16 statements for the benefit of the Inquiry and they can
17 be found -- I am going to be giving certain
18 page references. Maria has certain documents with her
19 that she can show when I pull documents up on the screen
20 here, but I am going to ask you, first of all, about
21 your first witness statement, which can be found at
22 SND-11644. If that could be put up on the screen,
23 please.

24 You will remember that we discussed, sister, that we
25 given everybody a designation rather than use their

1 names in the Inquiry --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and your designation is "SR2". So it says "The
4 Witness Statement of", instead of your name being there
5 it says "SR2", and if we could just go to the last
6 page of that statement, which is SND-11658, please, you
7 will see, sister, that this statement was signed on 3rd
8 December 2003, and where we see that big back rectangle
9 on the screen here, you can actually see a document
10 where you can see your signature. Isn't that correct?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And there's a second statement that you have also
13 prepared, which can be found at SND-17445. This is
14 a two-page statement, sister, and again in place of your
15 name we see "SR2", and on the second page of that we can
16 see at the bottom of that you signed that on 26th March
17 of this year and your signature is on that document.
18 Isn't that correct?

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

20 Q. Now can I just confirm with you, sister, that these are
21 the two statements that you would like the Inquiry to
22 consider as your evidence? You want us to consider
23 these statements as part of your evidence. Isn't that
24 right, sister?

25 **A. Please, please, please.**

1 Q. Now, sister, I am going to ask you, first of all, about
2 -- some general questions about your work and your
3 career, and correct me if I get anything wrong. I know
4 we discussed this earlier, but just in case I've got any
5 of the details wrong, please correct me.

6 **A. Okay.**

7 Q. You became a nun, first of all, in . Isn't that
8 right?

9 **A. , yes.**

10 Q. And your final vows were taken in

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You, first of all, worked in the home of the
13 Sisters of Nazareth and your role there was one of child
14 care.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You then went in you were
17 in and you were collecting, and then from
18 to you were in --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and again you were involved in child care there. If
21 I can just pull up --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- a document on the screen here, sister. This is
24 a document prepared on your behalf by your lawyers,
25 which is SND-16452, and it is described as your

1 curriculum vitae. You will see, sister --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- that the earlier details that I was giving are there,
4 and then we see there that in you went to
5 Termonbacca in Derry --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and you were there until .

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. We know, if we can just scroll down, you left
10 Termonbacca in . You then went back to
11 These dates are blocked out on our screen, but you went
12 to , and from you were in
13 If we can scroll on down, again then in to you
14 were also , although in one of the other --
15 a different home. In to you went to in
16 , and while you were there, you studied and
17 obtained the Certificate in Social Studies. Social work
18 was it?

19 **A. Yes, social work.**

20 Q. Social work, and then you came back to Northern
21 Ireland and you went to Nazareth House in Bishop Street
22 until

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You left Derry in . You went to , and
25 then you came back to in , and you've been

1 back since that date.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Can I then ask you, sister, when you first came to
4 Termonbacca in , how did that compare with the other
5 homes that you had been in?

6 **A. Derry was the opposite, because in where
7 I worked it was a beautiful children's home and a proper
8 building. I think the building that made the
9 difference, and the facilities there, and the same in**

10 **The homes were completely different. They
11 were well -- well laid out. You had -- you had smaller
12 dormitories equipped with a dormitory more than two or
13 three beds. They had a sitting room, dining room and
14 much, much smaller -- very small groups in comparison
15 with Termonbacca.**

16 Q. We have heard, sister, that the layout in the in
17 Termonbacca was of -- there would have been a nursery at
18 that time.

19 **A. A nursery but a separate building from the boys.**

20 Q. And the boys -- there was a junior dormitory, then there
21 was a classroom and then there was a senior dormitory.

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. Can I just ask then a little bit about your time there?

24 We see from your CV, which we have up on the screen
25 here, that in -- sorry -- , when you were in

1 Termonbacca, the last year that you were there, you did
2 what's described as an in-service course --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and I believe that was at the

5 Is that right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. When we spoke earlier, I asked you what exactly that
8 entailed, and you believed it en... -- you attended
9 a couple of days a week maybe.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You say that it was effectively a course which was the
12 first step into social work.

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

14 Q. While you were there you and a person who worked in
15 Termonbacca called SND194 wrote a document. Isn't that
16 correct? You wrote a paper.

17 **A. We did, yes.**

18 Q. We can find -- we can find that at SND-5658 through to
19 SND-5681.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. I think -- has Maria given that to you there, sister?

22 **A. She has, yes.**

23 Q. So this is the document that you wrote along with
24 SND194. If we could just go to -- I am going to deal
25 with a few pages on this document, sister, with you. If

1 we could go, first of all, to SND-5667. Sorry. It
2 should -- I think I have maybe given the wrong
3 page reference. If you bear with me, please. I am
4 looking at the wrong page. I have given the right
5 reference. Now I am looking at the wrong page.
6 Apologies, sister. Yes. At the bottom of that page, if
7 we could just scroll down, you talk about the admissions
8 in the home and you say:

9 "It is interesting to note that less than 25% of
10 admissions in the first 20 years of the home were
11 because of illegitimacy. Most of the cases referred
12 were long-term, so in effect one had a growing
13 population which within the first ten years or so
14 gradually increased until the number approached 100;
15 this figure was maintained and indeed surpassed right up
16 to the early ."

17 So before you came to Termonbacca there were up to
18 100 boys in the home?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. This -- I should have perhaps made it clear that this
21 was essentially a history that you and **SND 194** were
22 writing about Termonbacca. Isn't that right?

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

24 Q. You also in the course of this gave accounts of the time
25 in the home from two old boys, and one of those --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- was SND15. Is that correct?

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

4 Q. And the other one was someone called .

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

6 Q. You describe those two as the first two boys who were
7 admitted to the home.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Now can I just clarify that? When we discussed this,
10 basically these boys had been in Bishop Street, and when
11 Termonbacca opened --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- they moved from Bishop Street in up to
14 Termonbacca.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Now I am not going to go into the details of what they
17 said Termonbacca was like in their time, because we have
18 the document and that can be read, but the position at
19 that -- they talk about the position of moving from the
20 nursery into the dormitories, and I asked you a little
21 bit about that, if you remember.

22 **A. Yes. Yes.**

23 Q. What you -- what you told me, sister -- and if I've got
24 this right, please let me know -- but you said the
25 position was a boy would move from the nursery to the

1 junior dorm or from the junior dorm to the senior dorm
2 only when a space became available for him.

3 **A. Right.**

4 Q. So the move was dependent on a place being available
5 rather than the age of the child --

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

7 Q. -- although whenever somebody did move up, you would
8 take the older boy first.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now if we can just look at SND-5676, please. It is
11 still within this paper that you and SND194 wrote,
12 sister. You talk about the changes that occurred in
13 Termonbacca between -- sorry -- in
14 that years.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You said that you weren't there until -- it wasn't until
17 the early that the main change took place in the
18 structure of the home. Whereas before referrals were
19 principally from clergy, statutory bodies began to refer
20 children to the home.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. You talk then about the welfare authorities and the
23 NSPCC. You said that:

24 "Some children in care were supported by voluntary
25 aid in the past and gradually the emphasis was more and

1 more on welfare referrals until the present time", which
2 would be when you were writing in "when all
3 referrals are the responsibility of the welfare
4 agencies."

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

6 Q. So if I have got -- if I have got it right, in the early
7 the welfare authorities started to refer children
8 and by the late --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- all of the children who were in Termonbacca would
11 have been welfare referrals.

12 **A. The ones coming in, that's right.**

13 Q. I should have made that clear. The ones coming in would
14 have been coming in on foot of a welfare referral. You
15 weren't at that stage still accepting them if a local
16 priest said, "Take this boy". He came in through Social
17 Services. Isn't that right?

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. Although at that time there would still have been boys
20 in the home who would have been there for a long time
21 and had come in by another route.

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. You say then that:

24 "The completion of the new purpose built home at the
25 back of the main building was a major step forward for

1 all concerned. There was obvious delight and expectancy
2 in moving to what was indeed in comparison to past
3 conditions luxurious surroundings."

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

5 Q. Can I also just, sister, move on to -- I will come back
6 to the new build. One of the things -- just I will deal
7 with it now. One of the things that you said to me was
8 that the new build took longer than expected, because it
9 was ongoing at the height of the troubles. As
10 I understand it, the new build was between and
11

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

13 Q. You say that that took a little longer, because Northern
14 Ireland, being what it was at that time, there was
15 a period of time when the men couldn't come to work on
16 the building. So there was a delay in the building
17 getting finished.

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. So that effectively meant that, if I've got this right,
20 that whenever the old building was knocked down in about
21 , and you moved across to the temporary
22 accommodation, you didn't really expect to be in that
23 temporary accommodation as long as you were.

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

25 Q. Now if I can just -- in compiling this paper you also

1 used the Sisters of Nazareth foundation books for some
2 of the information that you put into it.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You think that --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You think that actually SND194 might have done the
7 research for that rather than you. Is that right?

8 **A. It was such a long time and I had moved so far away from**
9 **it that as once as I started to write down, I recognised**
10 **that we both -- we shared it between us.**

11 Q. So when you had another look at it, you realised that
12 you both did that research.

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

14 Q. Well, if we can just look, please, at SND-5679.

15 I should say that on the preceding page you went right
16 back to February 1921 in doing the research, which was
17 to give some general information about the home and the
18 development taken from the home's foundation book, but
19 the other entries can certainly be read, but I am just
20 going to highlight a few of them, sister.

21 One of those is that in 1939 on this page we can see
22 that:

23 "In February two of the boys set sail for
24 Australia."

25 That was recorded in the foundation book at that

1 time.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. It says here that in 1944 -- there's great talk of
4 a Mr Madden, who seemed to be a great benefactor of
5 Termonbacca.

6 **A. He was a wonderful --**

7 Q. Sorry. I beg your pardon. I didn't mean to interrupt
8 you, sister.

9 **A. Yes, he was a great benefactor.**

10 Q. You say -- you talk -- there's notes about gifts being
11 received, and here in 1944 a cheque was received from
12 the Ministry of Agriculture as a subsidy on potatoes
13 grown. It is £122 and 10 shillings was the subsidy.
14 Now, sister, there was a farm on Termonbacca --
15 Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?

16 **A. There was a big farm there, yes.**

17 Q. And can you remember did the produce from the farm -- we
18 have heard from people that some of the produce you used
19 yourselves and some went down to Bishop Street.

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 Q. Can I ask did the sisters also sell some of the produce
22 from the farm or have you any recollection of that?

23 **A. They would sell the cattle. I'm not sure about -- they**
24 **wouldn't -- the potatoes that they provided, the**
25 **vegetables would be used in Termonbacca home, and also**

1 the cattle that they -- the cattle were milking cows and
2 they would be sold eventually, yes, and also the milk
3 was provided for the home.

4 Q. So it was a dairy herd that was kept on the farm?

5 A. A dairy -- a dairy herd, yes.

6 Q. If I can just look at , it says:

7 "St. Eugene's Youth Club came at Christmas to
8 entertain the boys. 16 boys left -- this year left for
9 Australia. All the children can now go to St. Columb's
10 Hall pictures every Saturday free of charge."

11 We have heard a great deal of how the people of
12 Derry were very supportive of the sisters and the work
13 they were doing in both Termonbacca and Bishop Street.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. This would appear to be an example of that support.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It goes on. In it is noted that St. Vincent
18 de Paul Society seemed to have become more involved.

19 "The boys are gradually going on more outings, some
20 sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul. On each boy's
21 birthday the society gave them a little gift."

22 Do you have a recollection yourself of that
23 continuing in the , sister?

24 A. It continued right up to the time I would say we were
25 actually in the new building and they were still

1 **providing at Christmas and the outings when -- when**
2 **possible for them.**

3 Q. Then

4 "A large senior committee was formed of the
5 principal businessmen in the city, who gave large
6 subscriptions, and a junior committee was formed mainly
7 to try to encourage the young people in the city to have
8 more interest in the work carried out by the Sisters.
9 They arranged for an annual ball, which raised £1000.
10 Initially this was divided among three Nazareth Houses."

11 Those three were Bishop Street, Termonbacca and
12 Fahan.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Then we have a note here that in 1957 Ministry officials
15 from Stormont visited.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Right. That seems to be -- the fact that you have noted
18 that in 1957, sister, can I ask is that because that was
19 the first time that was noted in the foundation books?

20 **A. I would say it may have been, because in my own time**
21 **when they visited I remember them coming annually.**

22 Q. You remember the Ministers -- the Stormont -- people
23 coming from Stormont annually to inspect the home?

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

25 CHAIRMAN: In her time.

1 MS SMITH: Sorry. In your time. So that would be from
2 to ?

3 **A. Yes, but I also remember the two people that came from**
4 **Stormont in -- from onwards.**

5 Q. Can you remember their names, sister?

6 **A. There's a Mrs -- I think she was .**

7 Q. If you don't remember, don't worry, sister. It's a long
8 time ago.

9 **A. It is, but definitely they did come.**

10 Q. They did come.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. In 1959 there's an entry there which says:

13 "Certain aspects of aftercare were going to be seen
14 to by the committee."

15 Now can you -- can you remember anything about that,
16 sister, or do you remember anything about the committee
17 being involved with aftercare?

18 **A. St. Vincent were involved in -- involved actually in**
19 **getting -- trying to get employment for them and finding**
20 **digs. That continued the whole time, but I can't just**
21 **bring to mind, but definitely the junior committee were**
22 **helping in that area. To what extent now I just can't**
23 **remember. That was the junior committee.**

24 Q. Junior committee. Well, then --

25 **A. Also they were -- sorry. Also they were involved in**

1 **raising funds --**

2 Q. And that was --

3 **A. -- for the home.**

4 Q. For the home.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. If I can just scroll down to , there's an entry:

7 " **SND 521** and from Stormont visited.

8 Next day members of the Child Welfare Council called to
9 see the children."

10 You are remembering two people coming from Stormont,
11 sister. Is it possible these were the two people that
12 you remember?

13 **A. SND 521 -- Mr, Mrs whichever was the person and the**
14 **gentleman with her.**

15 Q. You do remember them coming and you say they came
16 yearly.

17 **A. I do, yes.**

18 Q. Did you have warning that --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Sorry, sister. Again with the TV screen there is
21 sometimes a little bit of a delay, and I apologise if
22 I~interrupt you. I don't mean to.

23 Do you remember, sister, whether you got any warning
24 that the Ministry people were coming?

25 **A. No. No.**

1 Q. They would just turn up unannounced?

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

3 Q. Might it be the case that Mother Superior might have
4 known that they were coming?

5 **A. To be honest to my memory they just arrived.**

6 Q. And then there's -- in you say:

7 "The government officials, and ,
8 were most anxious that we would build dormitories. More
9 sleeping space was required."

10 In :

11 "Stormont officials visited again and discussed the
12 proposed new building. It was agreed that the architect
13 should provide sketches."

14 Then in we see that:

15 "Many individuals came forward when they heard of
16 our plans for a new home and offered their services.
17 A committee was formed, Termonbacca Aid Committee, to
18 raise money for the proposed new building, and the money
19 raised was £50,000 approximately by way of functions,
20 raffles and donations. Government paid £45,000 and the
21 building then was opened in

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Do you remember that fundraising for the new build,
24 sister?

25 **A. I do.**

1 Q. We see that that fundraising was almost matched by the
2 government donation -- contribution.

3 **A. It was.**

4 Q. Sister, there's another page at SND-5681 and I'm not
5 going to go into this in detail, but this was
6 a table that you compiled from the records from -- right
7 from 1914. Is it fair to say that that's maybe when the
8 records went back to that you could find?

9 **A. It was, yes, yes.**

10 Q. And right up to , and you talk about the total
11 admissions, and I take it this was the total admissions
12 to the Sisters of Nazareth homes both in Bishop Street
13 and obviously at this stage Termonbacca in 1914 wasn't
14 open. Can you see the document there, sister, okay?

15 **A. Yes, yes.**

16 Q. You will see that -- if I just scroll -- you see there
17 is the year, total admissions, how many children were
18 illegitimate, where the referral of that child came from
19 and the reasons for the referral and which district the
20 child came from or where -- those six children in 1914
21 to '18. Do you see that?

22 **A. Yes. That is correct.**

23 Q. It would appear, sister, from that that up until 1955 --
24 and this -- you spoke about this in the body of your
25 paper -- that certainly up until 1955 all of the

1 admissions to the homes would have been private
2 admissions, private referrals.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. We see that from '55 to '60 10% of the admissions came
5 from the Welfare Authority; '60 to '65 NSPCC were making
6 referrals as well as the welfare authorities; and then
7 75% of admissions between '65 and '70 came from the
8 statutory authorities, and, as you say, by '70 to '78
9 almost 100% of referrals came from the statutory
10 section.

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

12 Q. Now the rest of the details there can be looked at in
13 due course as to the sources. There's a referral and
14 the types of children who were being admitted to
15 Termonbacca.

16 Can I -- you left Termonbacca -- I will come back to
17 more details, but you left in . We know,
18 sister -- we have received medical information about you
19 and I am not going to go into any of the details about
20 that save for one aspect, which I discussed with you
21 earlier.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. That was that when you moved to , you were --
24 you received treatment for an undiagnosed condition that
25 you would have had since childhood and that was

1 a condition called and we talked about
2 that --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and the treatment that you got, but I wondered what
5 your symptoms might have been before you were diagnosed
6 and how long those symptoms might have occurred. One of
7 the things that we discussed was that you did have
8 headaches.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. How long had you had the headaches, sister, and how
11 frequent were they?

12 **A. Within the first six months I was in I had**
13 **a slight headache when I used to go out down to the play**
14 **field with the children, the boys. They were playing**
15 **football. I found if I ran up the banking or whatever,**
16 **the pain went straight to the crown of my head but only**
17 **for less than a second. It came and went.**

18 Q. Sister, I think I may have misunderstood you when we
19 talked before, because I -- when you were describing
20 exactly what you have just described, I had understood
21 that to have happened in Termonbacca, but am I wrong
22 about that? Okay. You didn't --

23 **A. No. That happened in Termonbacca.**

24 Q. As well?

25 **A. That was the first, yes, yes.**

1 Q. And how long would that have been going on for in
2 Termonbacca, those headaches?

3 **A. I only noticed it once or twice. Again it would be if**
4 **I ran up the hill or whatever.**

5 Q. Just to be clear then, sister, it wasn't something that
6 you experienced throughout your time in Termonbacca.
7 This was just before you left. Is that right?

8 **A. This was before I left, yes.**

9 Q. The question that I was wondering really was did that
10 affect your ability to look after the children in any
11 way?

12 **A. No, no.**

13 Q. Okay. Then we know from your CV, sister, that you went
14 to in right through to and worked in
15 the two homes. Isn't that right?

16 **A. That's right.**

17 Q. I did explain when we last spoke that unfortunately at
18 some point in the future we may have to call you back to
19 speak about your time there, but certainly we are not
20 going to deal with that today.

21 You then went across to , where you
22 received your Certificate in Social Work after
23 a course there. Isn't that so?

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

25 Q. I think what you said was that you attended college, but

1 you also did your placement in the Sisters of Nazareth
2 House in .

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Then after that you came back to Derry to Nazareth House
5 in Bishop Street, and you were there from to
6 You set out your experience in the Order in your
7 statement and I am not going to pull it up at this
8 stage, but it is there. Maybe we should just look at
9 it. It is SND-11644.

10 You see here from paragraphs 3 to 6 you confirm that
11 you were professed in and you took your religious
12 name. When you were first professed, you went to

13
14 "... where I worked with a group of boys and then
15 spent some time in and . I came to
16 Termonbacca in as an assistant houseparent.
17 I stayed there until , when I was sent to
18 , where I worked with a group of young boys
19 who had particular needs. I came back to Northern
20 Ireland and spent time in both

21 , and In
22 on the I came there to
23 work with mainly teenage boys and girls, some of whom
24 were sexually abused and had been addicted to drugs or
25 solvent abuse. With my past training I was in a better

1 to position to deal with these young people to help them
2 open up and tell their story. As a result I was
3 approached by a senior social worker to open a unit for
4 sexually abused children and young people. I did not
5 think this was a good idea, as I felt this would
6 stigmatise the children and young people further. They
7 needed individual help in a specialised unit. Looking
8 back now, my experience this time could have helped me
9 in my earlier work in Termonbacca to diagnose and help
10 those young boys to express themselves and open up and
11 tell their story, which could have prevented much damage
12 that they are now expressing. I then went to
13 where I undertook a Certificate in Social Work and then
14 returned to Derry, where I worked in Bishop Street from
15 until . During my time in Bishop Street I was
16 approached by the Department" -- I think that means you
17 actually approached the Department -- "to provide" --

18 **A. That's right.**

19 Q. -- "funding for social work qualifications, and also it
20 was at this period too that Social Services upgraded
21 funding for the children's income support for their
22 needs and also proper wages for our staff."

23 Initially, sister, when you started it is clear from
24 what you have said and from the CV that we have looked
25 at you had no qualifications in child care until you got

1 the Certificate in Social Work in . Isn't that
2 correct?

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

4 Q. You then continued to do courses, including
5 a Certificate in Counselling, when you were in Nazareth
6 in the . Is that correct?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. If I can just go back, sister, to Termonbacca, and we
9 will deal with that before we go on to your time in
10 Nazareth House. I think if we can -- we will go on,
11 sister, for about another fifteen minutes or so, if
12 that's -- if you are fine with that and then we will
13 take a break.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You're happy enough to continue?

16 **A. I am.**

17 Q. Well, can I just ask, sister, how your assignment to
18 Termonbacca came about?

19 **A. Sorry. Can you ...?**

20 Q. Sorry, sister. How did you come to go to Termonbacca?
21 How did that happen? Did you have any choice in it,
22 first of all?

23 **A. No. It was after I made my final vows in I got word
24 the next day that was dying . So
25 I was -- I was -- I was sent to Termonbacca in Derry**

1 **because it was nearer to my home.**

2 Q. So there was a certain degree of sensitivity involved
3 for you personally in the move then you felt from the
4 Order?

5 **A. There was. There was.**

6 Q. When you arrived in Termonbacca, you describe in
7 paragraphs 8 to 10 of your statement what it was like.
8 You said you recall it very fondly:

9 "I do think of my time there a lot and I would say
10 it was an emotional time for me. When I first arrived
11 in Termonbacca, I had only recently taken my final vows
12 and the day after I had taken those vows I was told that
13 was, in fact, dying ",
14 just as you have told us.

15 "This was just before I came to Termonbacca and
16 therefore my arrival was one which was shrouded in
17 competing emotions. I recall arriving one evening at
18 around 7.00 or 7.30 and recall a corridor which was
19 leading through the house. I remember going to the
20 junior dormitory where the junior boys were all in their
21 beds. I do recall being met by ...",

22 and you name two boys who met you, one of whom gave
23 you a bunch of flowers, which was a bit dishevelled, but
24 the gift itself was very emotional for you.

25 "I then went down to visit the older boys, who were

1 in their living room area, which was a large spacious
2 hall with a large table and only a few benches around
3 the television area. My first impression of them was of
4 happy open faces and very welcoming. I do remember the
5 boys being quite big and some of them would have been
6 aged up to 17 years ago -- or so."

7 Excuse me, sister.

8 Just pausing there, talking about Termonbacca, you
9 did say that it was very different to what you had
10 experienced in the other children's homes in ,
11 and --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- you talk particularly about the buildings, but one of
14 the things you said to me when we were speaking earlier
15 was you felt the boys in Termonbacca were nonetheless
16 happier than the boys you had experienced in

17 **A. Less? Sorry. Less happier?**

18 Q. No. Sorry. The Termonbacca boys appeared to you to be
19 happier than those children you had encountered in

20 .

21 **A. That's correct. They were happy and friendly.**

22 Q. And you say -- sorry. I interrupted you, sister.

23 **A. They were happy and friendly. They were happy and
24 friendly, yes.**

25 Q. Can I ask who was in charge when you arrived, sister?

1 Do you remember?

2 **A. SR93.**

3 Q. And can you recall how many nuns there were in
4 Termonbacca at that time?

5 **A. There were two sisters with the children including
6 myself and SR1, a sister in the nursery, a sister in the
7 kitchen and two elderly sisters. One looked after the
8 church and one looked after the -- one was the
9 receptionist there.**

10 Q. So there was yourself. There was a nun in the nursery.
11 Do you remember who she was?

12 **A. She was sister who is now SR3.**

13 Q. She would have been known --

14 **A. She was SR3.**

15 Q. Yes. She would have been known as SR3 and now she has
16 reverted back to her own name.

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

18 Q. The Inquiry has heard from her. So she was in the
19 nursery when you arrived, and there was yourself and SR1
20 in charge of the boys?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. There was a sister in the kitchen cooking. Mother
23 Superior I take it as well?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And the two older sisters --

1 **A. But she --**

2 Q. Do you remember the names of the two older sisters?

3 **A. Sister -- Sister -- SR82. She had a second name too,**
4 **but I can't recall that. She looked after the church,**
5 **and I think it was -- I just can't remember the other**
6 **name.**

7 Q. That's fine, sister. Around this time how many boys
8 were in the home, not including those in the nursery?

9 **A. Over 60 at that time.**

10 Q. So you and SR1 had 60 boys to look after?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Can I just check were there any civilian staff there?

13 **A. Not at that time --**

14 Q. I think --

15 **A. -- but later they came, yes.**

16 Q. I think you said that they came maybe about five years
17 after you did. The civilian staff started to be there.

18 **A. The first five years were two of us.**

19 Q. Two of you?

20 **A. With the help of the older boys.**

21 Q. With the help of the older boys. I will come back to
22 that, sister.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. But just, if I may, whenever you and SR1 were looking
25 after the children, was there a division between the two

1 of you as to who looked after which boys at that stage
2 when you arrived?

3 **A. The only division would be at bedtime. The junior --**
4 **the little ones, the juniors slept in the junior**
5 **dormitory and the older boys slept in the big dormitory.**

6 Q. And each of you -- you, as I understand it, had your
7 cell, your bedroom in the dormitory --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- and would have been responsible for those boys at
10 night-time?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And SR1 then would have had the to look
13 after at night-time? You are nodding, sister. Then
14 during the day time --

15 **A. Sorry.**

16 Q. During the day time then what was the position? Just
17 everybody was together and both you and SR1 looked after
18 them?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. Now can I ask -- just going back to the civilian staff,
21 they came about Is that right?

22 **A. That's right.**

23 Q. And when we talked earlier, you said that things
24 gradually improved with their help.

25 **A. Granting on they increased at the beginning, the number**

1 **was very small, maybe two at a time. That would be more**
2 **or less in the evening time. Then after that it**
3 **increased gradually until it -- until right up to the**
4 **end.**

5 Q. Were there also volunteers who helped out? We have
6 heard about --

7 **A. Yes, they did.**

8 Q. -- the St. Vincent de Paul.

9 **A. Yes, the St. Vincent de Paul and the Children of Mary**
10 **and other ladies from the community.**

11 Q. And what did they -- things did they help with, sister?

12 **A. They would help with sewing and mending or would help**
13 **with the tidy-up after the children's supper in the**
14 **dining room.**

15 CHAIRMAN: Now, Ms Smith, I see we are coming --

16 MS SMITH: Yes, I am conscious of the time.

17 CHAIRMAN: -- nearly to the end I imagine of the first
18 spell. The Panel feel that it would be helpful for us
19 to ask our questions at the end of each stage --

20 MS SMITH: Certainly.

21 CHAIRMAN: -- rather than come back perhaps many hours after
22 they have been dealt with. It's in ease of us but also
23 in ease of the witness. If it is convenient to you, we
24 might do that now.

25 MS SMITH: Yes. I am conscious, Chairman, that there may be

1 some of the questions that I have already prepared to
2 ask sister and dealt with her that may actually answer
3 some of the queries that you have, though. So --

4 CHAIRMAN: Well, perhaps we will find that out when we ask
5 our questions.

6 MS SMITH: Yes, certainly. We don't want to duplicate
7 things, but certainly we can do that.

8 CHAIRMAN: Right.

9 MS SMITH: Sister, we are going to take a break shortly, but
10 before we do I indicated to you when we last spoke that
11 at the end of what you have to say the Panel Members
12 would want to ask you some questions themselves, but we
13 are going to do that at the end of each section of
14 evidence, as it were. So I think that they're going
15 to -- I was just going to go on and ask you a little bit
16 more about your role, but I can come back to that if the
17 Panel want to ask you more questions now about what we
18 have spoken about so far. So I will stop speaking now.
19 You can listen to their questions and answer them and
20 then we will take a break. All right?

21 **A. Thank you. Yes.**

22 **Questions from THE PANEL**

23 CHAIRMAN: Sister, you remember being asked about officials
24 coming from Stormont, and in your book there's
25 a reference to a _____ and a **SND 521**

1 **A. Yes. I remember them.**

2 Q. Did **SND 521** come frequently as an inspector, every
3 year or every month, few months or whatever?

4 **A. No. To my memory it was once a year.**

5 Q. And during your time did she come every year herself?

6 **A. I think there was a came.**

7 Q. So either they both came or one or other of them came.
8 Is that right?

9 **A. In my memory I feel it was when the first lady -- Miss**
10 **replaced the first lady, **SND 521** . I may be**
11 **wrong in that.**

12 Q. When the inspector came, did they just come for an hour
13 or two or were they there for a day or several days at
14 a time?

15 **A. Oh, no, no. They'd be there I would say for a number of**
16 **hours.**

17 Q. And when they came for a number of hours, did they speak
18 to the children or did they just speak to you and Mother
19 Superior?

20 **A. They spoke to the Mother Superior and SR1, and they**
21 **would also come over and inspect the building itself,**
22 **and if the children were there, they would speak to**
23 **them, maybe one or two, as they went through the room,**
24 **because the number were big -- because there was such**
25 **a big number. They would speak to one or two of them**

1 **therefore.**

2 Q. Now can I ask you -- and if we could have SND-5681
3 brought up again, please. Now, sister, can you see this
4 chart or table on your screen?

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

6 MS SMITH: She doesn't have a screen, but they should have
7 a copy for her.

8 CHAIRMAN: Miss Dougan, if SND-5681 could be found and given
9 to SR2, please.

10 If you just look at the extreme right-hand side, you
11 see where it says at the top "District"?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Then in the first box "1914-18, Derry/Donegal" and then
14 there are ditto marks all the way down. It looks as if
15 all the time Termonbacca was functioning you had
16 children coming in whose families lived either in
17 Donegal or in other counties in the Republic up until
18 about 1965.

19 **A. That's right. That's right.**

20 Q. Now I appreciate that you may not know the answer to
21 this, but were any children from Donegal placed by the
22 welfare authorities in Donegal as opposed to parents?

23 **A. Sorry. I don't quite understand it, please. Could you
24 repeat that, please?**

25 Q. Yes.

1 **A. Sorry.**

2 Q. In your years when you were there there were
3 an increasing number of children from Northern Ireland
4 who were placed by the Northern Ireland welfare
5 authorities. Isn't that right?

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

7 Q. But for the children from Donegal, were there any
8 children who were placed by Donegal County welfare
9 authorities?

10 **A. I remember in my early stages there where SND483, SND483**
11 **came to -- actually she came and I met with SR1 -- I met**
12 **up with SR1, and it was at that stage that payments were**
13 **whatever -- I think there would be no more than seven**
14 **children to the best of my memory that were paid for by**
15 **the -- by SND483's organisation, the Catholic Social**
16 **Services.**

17 Q. Yes.

18 **A. That's to the best of my memory now.**

19 Q. I'm looking at a slightly different aspect of this. It
20 is to know whether any money was paid by Donegal County
21 Council for Donegal children in Termonbacca that you may
22 remember.

23 **A. No, no. To my memory all the children that came from**
24 **Donegal were -- were voluntary. There was no payments**
25 **that I can remember.**

1 Q. Thank you.

2 **A. If I may say --**

3 Q. Can I just then ask you -- I beg your pardon? Can
4 I just ask you about one other matter you mentioned?
5 You have told us that between SR1 and yourself the two
6 of you were responsible for maybe more than 60 boys at
7 a time.

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

9 Q. Now you have described how at night then you were
10 responsible for your group and SR1 responsible for her
11 group.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. But during the day might there have been times when
14 either you were away somewhere else in the building or
15 SR1 away somewhere else where one of you were looking
16 after up to maybe 60 or more children?

17 **A. That would happen maybe at the weekends --**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. -- or holiday time, because they'd be in school during
20 the day.**

21 Q. Yes, but leaving school out of the account, perhaps at
22 weekends or on holidays for some reason just one of you
23 might have had to look after all the 60 plus children?

24 **A. If we were on holiday, which we got once a year,
25 somebody would come from Bishop Street to help with.**

1 Q. They would relieve you to give you a holiday. Is that
2 the way it worked?

3 **A. Yes, yes, yes. Again now, if I may, going back, as the**
4 **question has come up, the holiday only came later on in**
5 **our lives, you know. I'd say in the first five years**
6 **I was there I don't remember going on holiday.**

7 Q. I suppose the way people would say now it was 24/7, 365
8 days of the year. Is that right?

9 **A. It was mostly.**

10 MR LANE: Sister, you mentioned when you were undertaking
11 your training course in that you stayed in
12 at the Nazareth House there. Did you also have
13 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- placements with local authority, social work
16 departments and so on?

17 **A. No, no.**

18 Q. So the home in was the only one that you saw
19 during your qualifying training?

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

22 **A. Thank you, sir.**

23 CHAIRMAN: Now, Ms Smith, Mr Montague, how long do you
24 suggest for a break?

25 MR MONTAGUE: Well, SR147 I think can be conveniently

1 slotted in, subject to your ruling, and that would give
2 SR2 a fairly substantial break.

3 CHAIRMAN: An hour or so.

4 MR MONTAGUE: Yes, an hour, and then hopefully resume for
5 an hour before lunch, which would give her a natural
6 break over lunch.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. I am aware that quite lengthy breaks are
8 suggested as being necessary for medical reasons.

9 MR MONTAGUE: That's right.

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, if we let SR2 go then for an hour or so.

11 MS SMITH: Sister, we are going to take a break now. We are
12 going to deal with SR147, who is going to come and give
13 her evidence while you have a break. Then we will let
14 you know when we are going to call you back, but it
15 certainly won't be before 12 o'clock. All right? See
16 you shortly.

17 **A. Yes. Thank you very -- yes. Thank you.**

18 **(Witness withdrew)**

19 CHAIRMAN: We will take a ten-minute break.

20 (10.05 am)

21 (Short break)

22 (10.15 am)

23 WITNESS SR147 (called)

24 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

25 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness

1 is SR147, who is "SR147". She is aware, Chairman, that
2 you are going to ask her about taking the oath or
3 affirming.

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Just before do I so can remind everyone in
5 the chamber that there must be no photography, no
6 photographs taken either in the chamber or anywhere in
7 the Inquiry building. Such photography is forbidden and
8 clearly has been from the start of the Inquiry.

9 Now, sister, would you repeat the oath after me,
10 please, taking the bible in your right hand?

11 WITNESS SR147 (sworn)

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

13 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

14 MR AIKEN: I am going to call you SR147 --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- as we go through your evidence. Can we bring up on
17 the screen, please, SND-13937? On the screen, SR147,
18 should be the first page of your witness statement and
19 I just want you to check it against the hard copy that
20 you have in your hand to make sure that it's the same
21 document. Can you just confirm that it's the same
22 document --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- apart from the black marks --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- that we can see?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. On the second page, please, SND-13938, can you confirm
4 that you have actually signed the hard copy that you're
5 holding?

6 **A. Yes, I did sign it.**

7 Q. And that you want to adopt the content of this witness
8 statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. The other reason why we see the black marks on the
11 screen is because the Inquiry's anonymity policy. So
12 you can see over your signature we have a designation of
13 "SR147", which is a number we are using to identify you.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can I ask you whether you want to keep your anonymity?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You do. Now the path that I am going to follow, SR147,
18 is just to set a little of the background for you and
19 then look at a series of documents that are relevant to
20 an issue the Inquiry is examining. You were born on

21 .

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Your religious name for the period that we are dealing
24 with and, in fact, up to was SR147.

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

1 Q. You mentioned to me earlier the children called you
2 "Sister " .

3 **A. Yes, " , yes, so much I went back to my baptismal**
4 **name.**

5 Q. So from you went back to being SR147.

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

7 Q. You worked in Bishop Street on a number of occasions.

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

9 Q. I'm not going to bring up all of the documents that
10 relate to that for the Inquiry, but you've set out at --
11 if we just go back to the page before, please,
12 SND-13937, you set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 the various
13 periods that you were in Derry and there's one of those
14 periods in particular that's important that I'll come
15 back to.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. But what I want to do, first of all, SR147, is the
18 reason you have been asked to come and give evidence
19 begins with a statement that Sister Brenda McCall made
20 to -- on behalf of the congregation to the Inquiry on
21 31st October of 2013. If we can bring up, please,
22 page SND-408, and we can see -- you will see at the top:

23 "I Sister Brenda ..."

24 She is setting out a response from the Order in
25 relation to a request for information from the Inquiry.

1 If we can move through to a particular paragraph,
2 paragraph 15, at page SND-410, now I just want to go
3 through this paragraph and the next two paragraphs with
4 you, SR147. It says:

5 "One of the main elements which has to be accepted
6 is that the sisters' general policy of no physical
7 punishment of children was not implemented."

8 Now I just want to stop there for a moment. Did you
9 know when you were in Bishop Street in the that the
10 policy of the congregation was there was to be no
11 physical punishment of children?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You knew that?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. So from the outset of your time in the Sisters of
16 Nazareth you have always understood that there is to be
17 no physical punishment of children?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. So it -- it's saying that it:

20 "... has to be accepted that the ... policy of no
21 physical punishment of children was not implemented.
22 There were instances where children were the subject of
23 a physical assault and this is not acceptable when the
24 care of children is to be considered."

25 So Sister Brenda on behalf of the congregation is

1 saying, "Physical assaults happened. They were not
2 acceptable and we accept they were not acceptable".

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. She then says in paragraph 16:

5 "Unfortunately the passage of time means that many
6 of the sisters who may have been involved in the care
7 have died and therefore cannot be approached to give
8 their information. Others are ill and are also unable
9 to assist because their memories are not what would be
10 required to give responses to some of these
11 allegations."

12 Then in paragraph 17, SR147, she says:

13 "One of the sisters has recalled an incident where
14 she saw a child being 'rapped' on the head by a sister.
15 This sister was using a bunch of keys in her hand when
16 she struck the child. The incident was immediately
17 reported to the superior. The sister cannot recall the
18 identity of the sister who had rapped the child on the
19 head with keys, nor can she recall what led to the child
20 being dealt with in this way or what steps were
21 subsequently taken by the superior. She can, however,
22 recall that she did report this incident immediately, as
23 she did not consider this to be an acceptable way to
24 proceed."

25 Now we now know that Sister Brenda in paragraph 17

1 is talking about an incident that you are going to speak
2 to. Isn't that right?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And this paragraph we will come back to, but it contains
5 a series of assertions about what you saw, what you did,
6 and on foot of that the Inquiry asked for some more
7 information from the congregation. This being the only
8 example of an accepted assault that was given by the
9 congregation, they have made this general acceptance
10 these things occurred. They have given this specific
11 example. So a request is made for more information, and
12 on 22nd December 2013, if we can bring up SND-13939,
13 a further statement is provided by Sister Brenda McCall.
14 You will see again this is the front page of the
15 statement:

16 "I Sister Brenda McCall ..."

17 I want to go to SND-13941 to paragraph 18. Just
18 make it large for me, please.

19 "In regard to certain incidents the Sisters have
20 accepted that there was a description of an incident
21 where a sister has mentioned one of her fellow sisters
22 striking a child on the head with a bunch of keys. The
23 sisters have previously stated that this was not
24 considered acceptable behaviour, nor is it deemed
25 appropriate or considered reasonable chastisement.

1 Having considered the Inquiry's request, the Sisters
2 have followed up this statement to clarify the comments
3 by", and on this occasion you are then identified, "by
4 SR147. SR147 is currently in

5 . SR147 would have been in Derry from the
6 period, when she was responsible for
7 collections and generally assisting with work within the
8 home."

9 That wasn't quite right and we will come on to the
10 further dates.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. "She was not specifically involved with the children."

13 There was occasions when you were working with the
14 children as well.

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

16 Q. We will come back to that.

17 "She was in Nazareth House, Bishop Street on
18 a number of occasions. SR147 has stated that she saw
19 this happen on only one occasion. SR147 recalls that
20 sister", and it is SR59 -- for the Inquiry's purposes
21 that's SR59 -- "hit SND451", which is a young girl
22 called SND451, "on the head while she had a set of keys
23 in her hand as opposed to hitting her with the keys.
24 She recalls SND451 because she was in the choir and had

25 ."

1 Now for the purpose of the transcript none of these
2 names are going to be identified beyond the four walls
3 of this room, and when the transcript is published on
4 the website the names won't appear. These redactions
5 will appear?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. But that is the further information that was provided to
8 the Inquiry by Sister Brenda after apparently someone
9 spoke to you about it.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Now the Inquiry, having received that further
12 information, then asked for a witness statement from you
13 about what you were talking about, and you provided
14 a witness statement that we were looking at already on
15 24th January 2014. That's at SND-13937. I want to look
16 at paragraph 5. So you describe:

17 "I do remember that the incident took place on the
18 first floor with only me present at the time. I cannot
19 accurately remember what I was doing or where I was
20 going, but my recollection is that I was the only person
21 in the area other than SR59 and SND451. Again I cannot
22 be accurate as to which period of time I was in Derry
23 but I believe the child SND451", SND451, "would have
24 been around or years old, but that is just
25 a guess on my part. I do not know what led up to the

1 incident. I recall SND451 could be a naughty child at
2 times. My memory is that she would not have been the
3 best behaved. I find it difficult to describe the
4 actual incidents as words like -- the actual incident as
5 words like 'hit', 'strike' or so on would suggest
6 a degree of force or violence which is not accurate.
7 I think 'rap' or 'tap' is a more accurate word.
8 I cannot be sure if SR59 rapped SND451 with the keys or
9 with her knuckle with the keys in her hand. I recall
10 the incident and the keys, but not very clearly. I do
11 not believe SND451 was crying or distressed at the
12 incident. The incident did not distress me, as there
13 was nothing very severe about it. I do not know the
14 aftermath of the incident but continued about my
15 business."

16 Then in paragraph 6 you say:

17 "I did not say anything to SR59 at the time and have
18 never really thought of it until this present Inquiry,
19 when we were all thinking of the times in Derry and
20 incidents which we may have seen. In regard to whom
21 I reported it to I really cannot say it was reported.
22 I did not think then that it was a serious matter. As
23 I look back now, I do not recall it as an assault on the
24 child, and my memory of SR59 generally is that she was
25 not aggressive with any of the children."

1 That's the statement that you have made to the
2 Inquiry.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And you have adopted that as your evidence.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Now what I want you to do, SR147, before I go any
7 further if we can go back, please, to page SND-410,
8 which is when the Inquiry was first told about this
9 incident, and in paragraph 17, and this is in the
10 context of the admission that the Order has made in
11 paragraph 15 about physical assaults taking place and
12 then giving this single incident as an example, it says:

13 "The incident was immediately reported to the
14 superior."

15 Now in your own statement you say you never reported
16 it to the superior.

17 **A. No, I didn't report the statement (sic) to the superior.**

18 Q. And the statement says:

19 "The sister cannot recall the identity of the sister
20 who rapped the child on the head with keys."

21 Well, you do recall.

22 **A. I do recall her rapping the child's head with the keys.**

23 Q. And you recall who that sister was.

24 **A. Yes, SR59.**

25 Q. It goes on in the last sentence to say:

1 "She can, however, recall that she did report this
2 incident immediately, as she did not consider this to be
3 an acceptable way to proceed."

4 Well, you have already said you didn't report it.

5 **A. Yes, I did not report it.**

6 Q. In your own witness statement you don't describe it as
7 unacceptable. Do you understand what I mean?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. If we just look at your own statement again, at
10 SND-13937 in paragraph 5 and paragraph 6 you say in
11 paragraph 6:

12 "I did not think it was a serious matter."

13 **A. Yes, that's true.**

14 Q. "As I look back now, I don't recall it as an assault."

15 Do you understand?

16 **A. I suppose at the time it was an assault to rap a child
17 on the head with keys.**

18 Q. Now there the matter rested, SR147 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- until the Inquiry was provided with a letter from you
21 that predates all three of the statements that we have
22 looked at --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- and that is at SND-17181. This is a letter that was
25 quite properly provided to the Inquiry by those

1 representing it and it is dated 23rd July of 2013. Now

2 I want to go through the letter with you, SR147.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. It says, first of all:

5 "Dear Sister Anna Maria,

6 Thank you for your letter received."

7 Now who was Sister Anna Maria?

8 **A. She is the Regional Superior in London.**

9 Q. And what was she writing to you for?

10 **A. I think she was just writing what occurred in Derry**

11 **going back a couple of years, what we saw.**

12 Q. In the context of assaults?

13 **A. Yes, whatever we saw in Derry, what happened.**

14 Q. It may be a copy of that letter can be looked for, but

15 you then go on to say:

16 "I went to Derry in or to do the city

17 collecting", with another sister.

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

19 Q. At the end of talking to you about these particular

20 issues we will speak about the collecting --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- so that the Panel can get an idea of what that

23 entailed, but you say that times were -- it was the

24 troubles beginning in Derry.

25 "Times were tough."

1 You were expected to go and help make the beds in
2 the two dormitories, clean the bathrooms, sweep and mop
3 the dormitories before you went out.

4 "I lived in fear of the superior, who was quite
5 hard, never bid us the time of day or asked us if we had
6 had a good day at the collecting when we came in. When
7 I came home from the collecting I had to get the
8 refectory ready for supper. Once you had a blue apron
9 on you were a great sister of Nazareth."

10 Now what I want to ask you about, SR147, first of
11 all, is you were a young nun when you first went to
12 Derry. Isn't that right?

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

14 Q. You -- if I have got the timing right, when you first
15 went there in , you were --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and the period that I think we are talking about of
18 this particular incident which we discussed earlier is
19 probably in and around --

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

21 Q. -- and I'll come on to why that's the case, but at that
22 stage you would only have been ?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You are describing here living as a nun --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- in fear of the superior who was in charge of Bishop
2 Street.

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

4 Q. Why -- why were you in fear of her?

5 **A. I think it was in them days in all congregations we had**
6 **-- it was a strict regime and I associated with my own**
7 **mother. We always got -- I mean, she was always**
8 **affectionate towards us, and if we went to school or did**
9 **anything, she would say, "Have a good day", and I know**
10 **when we went out to do the collecting in Derry, we never**
11 **got reassured or, "Did you have a good day?", you know.**

12 Q. Are you describing a lack of warmth?

13 **A. A lack of warmth, yes.**

14 Q. And just -- you mentioned again going to the collecting.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So if we just deal with that before I go on to the
17 significant issue here. You collected five days a week?

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

19 Q. You did two years' collecting in the city?

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

21 Q. You also collected then subsequently out in the country?

22 **A. Yes. We came back. I was changed and then came back**
23 **into the country collecting.**

24 Q. And there were four of you collecting --

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

1 Q. -- for Bishop Street?

2 **A. Bishop Street, yes.**

3 Q. And you also did church collections?

4 **A. That's right, on a Sunday.**

5 Q. And the collecting involved all day, every day --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- out round people's houses?

8 **A. That's right, and I think too our apostolate was very**
9 **good in Derry. You know, we went from door to door, and**
10 **if anybody was sick, we would go in and -- you know, or**
11 **if they were in the hospital, we would visit them in**
12 **hospital, or if someone had died, we would go in and**
13 **sympathise with the people in the house and say the**
14 **rosary. I know I used to make little badges for mothers**
15 **that had new babies. We used to have recreation at**
16 **night-time and I would make the little badges for them.**

17 Q. You did other duties as well, which you describe in this
18 letter.

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

20 Q. You helped with the elderly.

21 **A. I used to go up -- before we went out on the collecting**
22 **in the morning time I was appointed to go up then and**
23 **help to make dormitory -- beds in the dormitories or**
24 **sweep and mop the floor.**

25 Q. If I were to say to you that that period of your life

1 was a hard life, would that be fair?

2 **A. Yes, it was hard.**

3 Q. Now I want to look back at the letter again.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say that:

6 "Once you had a blue apron on you were a great
7 Sister of Nazareth."

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. What does that mean?

10 **A. I just felt we always had to be working. You would
11 always have to be doing something.**

12 Q. So as long --

13 **A. In them days we always wore a blue apron.**

14 Q. And as long as you were working --

15 **A. Working, yes.**

16 Q. -- that was acceptable?

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

18 Q. Now then, SR147, you say in the next paragraph, and this
19 is what I want to focus on for the next period of time
20 --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- "In Derry I did witness a sister being hard on the
23 children. Sister would crack the children on their
24 heads with a set of keys."

25 I'm going to stop there, because this is talking

1 about a crack.

2 **A. Yes, a rap.**

3 Q. Well, the word -- this is a letter written by you.

4 **A. Yes. I know in "crack" was one of the words that**
5 **we used in as kids.**

6 Q. Well, this is a letter written by you --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- to another sister --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and what you say is:

11 "The sister would crack the children on their heads
12 with a set of keys."

13 Now we will leave the "crack" issue alone --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- but you can see what else is there, SR147 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and that is that this is plural. This isn't one
18 child.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. This is "the children on their heads". It's a course of
21 conduct you're describing --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- not a single incident.

24 **A. I only saw it once happened.**

25 Q. Well, what I want then to ask you, if you only saw it

1 once, in order to say that this was the course of
2 conduct that was engaged in, ie this particular sister
3 would crack the children on their heads with a set of
4 keys, are you able to say that because your
5 understanding at the time was that was the practice?

6 **A. I'd say yes.**

7 Q. So you saw her once --

8 **A. I saw her once, yes.**

9 Q. -- but you know that that's what the practice was and
10 that's why -- now don't let me put words in your mouth,
11 but you're describing here a course of conduct that's
12 "the children on their heads". Is the reason why you
13 were able to say that because others saw a similar thing
14 and talked to you about it or you knew for some reason
15 that that's what went on, or why are you able, if you
16 only saw it once, to say that it happened to children,
17 getting cracked on their heads?

18 **A. I only saw the once and it could have been going on**
19 **unknown to me.**

20 Q. Did other nuns talk about it happening?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Now I had a discussion with you earlier, SR147 --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- about trying as best we could to get clarity on when
25 this incident might have occurred, and I'm just going to

1 talk through the material, and if at any stage in due
2 course someone thinks I have got it wrong, they will
3 tell me, rather than take you through the 25 documents
4 --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- that I would need to to show you why I can say what
7 I can say, but the Order has confirmed to us that SND451
8 was born on and was admitted to Bishop
9 Street on , aged , and was discharged
10 on , aged .

11 **A. Uh-huh. I was there in 19... -- I think it was .**

12 Q. You were there in

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. But bear with me for a moment. At the same time SR59,
15 SR59, SR59, who is alive, but the Inquiry has a medical
16 from her, which I will not bring up, but it is at
17 SND-15160, explaining why she would not be able to
18 assist the Inquiry, she was born on and
19 she came to Derry on , age .
20 I don't want to bring it up, but the reference for the
21 Panel is SND-17187. So she is there in , aged ,
22 and, in fact, she takes over from SR9 as the
23 of Bishop Street School in , aged . The
24 references for that are SND-6309 and SND-6310, and then
25 she left Bishop Street in , aged , and that's at

1 SND-17187.

2 So what we have is SR59 there from to , and
3 we have SND451 there from to , and we have you in
4 your witness statement saying you thought she was or
5 .

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

7 Q. We know you were there to

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. She would only have been or . So it is not likely to
10 have been then.

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. But you were also there and and --

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

14 Q. -- and at that stage, , SND451 would have been
15 to .

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. So if she was -- you saw her nearer or .

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. She may have been . The earliest point this could be
20 would be --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- but it's possible it's between to , but more
23 likely --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- when she was nearer than , when she'd have been

1 .

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. The Mother Superior at the time was SR126. For the
4 Panel record that is at SND-6307 to SND-6309. Do you
5 remember the Superior?

6 **A. I do, yes. She was quite nice.**

7 Q. Now the reason for going through that with you to
8 establish when the period is we are talking about is
9 that the Inquiry has already heard from individuals
10 alleging they were assaulted by SR59 during their time
11 in care.

12 For instance, one that I am going to show you, if we
13 can bring up, please, SND-4271, which is the statement
14 that HIA169 made to the Inquiry, she gives examples of
15 more serious assaults that she says were inflicted on
16 her by the same nun and by another nun, but if we can
17 just scroll down, please, you will see that she came
18 back to Nazareth House for the holidays.

19 "SR9 and SR15" -- so we have got a problem with the
20 designations -- "SR59 would also walk up behind us and
21 hit us on the head with her keys."

22 So this is a witness who was describing to the
23 Inquiry a practice of getting hit on the head with keys
24 --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- which is the same as you have written about in your
2 letter.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You -- in one of the Sister Brenda statements it talks
5 about you being unclear about whether it was hit with
6 the keys or hit with the knuckle. Another witness who
7 has given evidence to the Inquiry, HIA49, at SND-14683
8 describes, and this is in a statement she made to the
9 police -- if we just -- just scroll down, please. I am
10 looking, Members of the Panel, for a reference to
11 "knuckle", which I trust will be on that page. Just go
12 up again, please. Yes. Thank you for that. So she is
13 saying that she was made strip her bed by again SR59
14 after a few knuckle punches by her on the head.

15 Now if we can go back to your letter again, SR147,
16 at SND-17181. There are a number of other individuals
17 who make allegations and I am not going to bring their
18 material up now, but your letter of 23rd July is
19 different from any of the other three statements where
20 this issue is discussed. Do you understand what I mean
21 by that?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Can you explain to the Inquiry why the first and second
24 statements from Brenda McCall and your statement are
25 different from what you describe in this letter?

1 **A.** I didn't report this incident to Superior about SND451.
2 It was another statement which I -- when I worked
3 with -- when I used to go out to the collecting in
4 Derry, I used to go up and help with -- make the beds
5 and that, and before I would go I would go to the sister
6 in that employment and say it was my time to go. On one
7 occasion when I went in, I noticed an old lady was
8 making a pot of tea and the sister was slapping the old
9 lady on the face. So I was kind of taken back, because
10 I had to go to collecting that day. I did -- when
11 I came in that evening, I reported what I had seen in
12 the morning to SR9, but I think when I was -- she was
13 going to the church, and I remember her -- her facial
14 expression was of shock, but I never heard anything else
15 what took place there.

16 **Q.** So however this come about, there is confusion in that
17 what you reported to the Superior was not this cracking
18 on the head with keys but witnessing an older lady being
19 slapped by a nun?

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And was that nun someone who ever worked with children?

22 **A.** No, I don't think so.

23 **Q.** Who was that nun?

24 **A.** Sister . She died. I reported that
25 incident. I reported that.

1 Q. But you have no idea if anything was done about that?

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. Now what I then want to ask you, you are saying you
4 didn't report SND451 being rapped on the head?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. The Order have said to the Inquiry that that was conduct
7 that was not acceptable, the rapping of a child on the
8 head or cracking of them on the head and shouldn't have
9 occurred.

10 **A. Yes. I was just surprised with SR59, you know, because**
11 **she wasn't like that.**

12 Q. What I want to ask you, SR147, is if it was unacceptable
13 conduct -- it is now said to the Inquiry it was
14 unacceptable conduct --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- why did you not report that to SR9 or the Superior at
17 the time, who was SR126 -- SR126. Why did you not
18 report that?

19 **A. I think I wasn't with the children and I just didn't**
20 **report it.**

21 Q. Were you shocked when you saw it?

22 **A. Yes, I could -- yes, I was.**

23 Q. SR147, the Inquiry is obviously investigating the abuse
24 of children in care homes. It doesn't matter which care
25 home it was.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You have described this incident to the Inquiry. Are
3 there any other incidents or any other information you
4 can give the Inquiry that would assist it with its work?

5 **A. No. I never saw anyone else doing anything like that.**

6 Q. SR147, I don't intend to ask you any more questions. If
7 you just stay where you are, the Inquiry Panel might
8 want to ask you some questions.

9 Questions from THE PANEL

10 CHAIRMAN: Sister, as I understand what you said at the
11 beginning of your evidence, you knew from the very
12 beginning or very soon after the beginning of your time
13 in the Order that the Order's policy was there was to be
14 no physical punishment of children.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. So the episode you have described of the nun hitting or
17 putting the keys against the child's head, to put it in
18 as neutral a way as possible, it was certainly open to
19 the construction that this was a form of punishment,
20 wasn't it?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. Well, would it not have been your duty to report that
23 episode to either the Mother Superior or at least a more
24 senior nun than yourself in the way that you reported
25 the face slapping episode to SR9?

1 **A. I just didn't report it.**

2 Q. SR59 would have been a much more experienced, a much
3 more senior member of the Order than you. Isn't that
4 right?

5 **A. She would have been, yes.**

6 Q. Thank you.

7 MS DOHERTY: Sister, can I just say in your statement you
8 say that SND451 wasn't upset or distressed when she was
9 rapped with the keys. Do you think that could have been
10 because she was used to that, that it wasn't such
11 a surprise to her?

12 **A. Oh, I -- I never saw her distressed or crying --**

13 Q. Okay.

14 **A. -- and I wouldn't be too sure if it did happen. I only
15 saw it on one occasion.**

16 Q. And would you have expected -- if a child was hit in
17 that way and it was an unusual thing to happen, would
18 you have expected her to have been --

19 **A. No, I wouldn't have expected SR59 to do that.**

20 Q. No. Would you have expected SND451 to be upset, you
21 know, if it was out of the usual?

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

23 Q. So you think it would have been something she would have
24 just accepted as a one-off --

25 **A. Yes, I think so.**

1 Q. -- even if she wasn't used to being treated that way?

2 **A. Yes. I would think so, yes.**

3 Q. Okay. Thanks, sister.

4 MR LANE: You said that you knew that there was a policy
5 that children should not be punished in that way. Was
6 this in the form of a book of policies or how did you
7 learn about that sort of thing?

8 **A. I never saw the book of policies, but I just took it for**
9 **granted, you know, when we entered, we never thought**
10 **anybody would touch a child.**

11 Q. So nobody actually specifically said to you that that
12 was the policy?

13 **A. No, no.**

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, SR147, that completes the questioning we
16 have. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us
17 today.

18 **A. Thank you, sir.**

19 CHAIRMAN: You are free to go now if you wish, or, of
20 course, you can remain also if you wish, but you may
21 leave the witness chair.

22 **A. Thank you very much.**

23 **(Witness withdrew)**

24 MR AIKEN: Chairman, the next part of SR2's evidence would
25 require some reconstruction in the chamber and it may be

1 appropriate to take a short break to allow that to take
2 place.

3 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will rise to allow that to happen,
4 ladies and gentlemen, but we'll do this as quickly as
5 possible. So it would helpful if everyone, if they can,
6 remain in the chamber and we will resume again as soon
7 as we can.

8 (12.03 pm)

9 (Short break)

10 (12.10 pm)

11 WITNESS SR2 (cont.)

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (cont.)

13 MS SMITH: Sister? Good afternoon, sister. Can you hear
14 me?

15 **A. Hello, Christine. I can. Thank you.**

16 Q. Sister, one of the things -- are you happy to continue?

17 **A. Yes, very much so, yes.**

18 Q. That's great. Sister, one of the things I forgot to ask
19 you earlier this morning was that, as I explained to you
20 before, everyone who has spoken to the Inquiry has been
21 given a degree of anonymity, and I showed you on your
22 statement how we used a designation rather than your
23 name. Can I just confirm with you that would you like
24 to maintain your anonymity for the Inquiry purposes?

25 **A. I would, please.**

1 Q. Sister, then if we can go back to what I was asking you
2 about before the Panel asked you some questions, we were
3 talking about the fact that there was yourself and SR1
4 were jointly responsible for the boys in the home. Can
5 I ask when you came to Termonbacca, were you given any
6 guidance by the congregation about how you should look
7 after the children?

8 **A. Having experience in and again in**
9 **and having SR1 as my superior -- as my -- as a senior**
10 **sister in my eyes at that stage, and I didn't -- I had**
11 **a good idea of what was expected of me to care for the**
12 **child.**

13 Q. I think you told me in Termonbacca terms you learned
14 what was expected from SR1. Is that correct?

15 **A. That's right as well as from my previous experiences.**

16 Q. Can I also just confirm SR1 at that time had overall
17 responsibility for child care in Termonbacca?

18 **A. She had.**

19 Q. Now if I can ask you then -- we know that in about
20 -- you describe the dormitory layout when you arrived,
21 but in that building was demolished and you moved
22 to temporary accommodation.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. That temporary accommodation -- when that happened, the
25 boys were divided into two groups. Is that correct?

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

2 Q. And how did that come about, sister? Why was that
3 necessary?

4 **A. Because we were living in a big building where we had**
5 **them all together, and there it was like a bit of heaven**
6 **in comparison with looking after the 60. We then had 20**
7 **-- 20 in each group, and we also had reduced to numbers**
8 **to about 40. So from 40 to 60 was a big jump for us.**

9 Q. So if I have got -- if I have understood what you told
10 me earlier correct and what you are saying now, sister,
11 is that because there wasn't the big open space to have
12 the boys all together, it was necessary that you divided
13 into two groups. Is that right?

14 **A. No. That was long-term and that was our only hopes for**
15 **the future, to get into small groups, smaller and**
16 **smaller. There were too many to be cared for.**

17 Q. So you were hoping to achieve that anyway, but the
18 temporary move made it possible?

19 **A. We were. Very much so, and the same with the other**
20 **sister.**

21 Q. So you had one group. SR1 had the other group and
22 during your time there --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- she was replaced. Is that correct? She left and
25 somebody else took over care of her group.

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

2 Q. Who do you remember taking over?

3 **A. SR5. SR5, who is now deceased.**

4 Q. And after SR5 who took over from that group?

5 **A. SR6.**

6 Q. Now can I pause and ask, sister, did the congregation as
7 a whole have a policy on the discipline of children that
8 you were aware of?

9 **A. No. We just took the needy. The children in need we**
10 **took them.**

11 Q. Yes. You took those children who needed to be taken to
12 be looked after, but --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- what I am asking about is if those children needed to
15 be disciplined once you had taken them, was there any
16 written policy, first of all, about how you should
17 chastise a child, if I can put it that way?

18 **A. I can't remember, but I know from my previous experience**
19 **in -- rather and again in**
20 **we didn't use discipline as such.**

21 Q. So if a boy did something wrong, what would have
22 happened -- what would have happened? If a boy was
23 badly behaved, what would have happened?

24 **A. There was very little we could do to isolate them from**
25 **the other children, because even with the 20 we had**

1 **nowhere to go, if you like. You would talk to them and**
2 **try and calm them down and do whatever you could with**
3 **them.**

4 Q. I will come back to that, sister, but can I ask you
5 among yourself, first of all, SR1 and then her
6 replacements --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- was there ever a discussion on how to discipline
9 a child?

10 **A. No, not as such.**

11 Q. You have said in your statement about how you on
12 occasion may have slapped a child on the hand or the
13 bottom.

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. And when would you say you might have done that, sister?

16 **A. Well, I would say on a rare occasion, but if it was**
17 **something desperate like, if they touched another child,**
18 **especially the smaller ones, if they hit somebody,**
19 **I~would give them a slap on the hand or on the bottom**
20 **whichever.**

21 Q. And did anyone ever say to you that it was acceptable to
22 do that?

23 **A. Not to my memory. Definitely later. Definitely later**
24 **in my life going through -- it was I think after**
25 **I became more and more aware. You know what I mean, and**

1 I'd say definitely I was fully aware by the time --
2 definitely I was aware of it right through my life, if
3 you like, but it became more obvious when I learned more
4 about the care of children --

5 Q. I think, sister, maybe --

6 A. -- (inaudible) --

7 Q. Sorry. I apologise, sister, for interrupting, but
8 I think maybe you have leapt on to something else we
9 will come to talk about --

10 A. Yes. All right.

11 Q. -- about your awareness of certain issues with children
12 that you were caring for.

13 A. Yes, yes, yes.

14 Q. Can I just bring you back for a moment and ask you about
15 bedwetting in Termonbacca?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Again was there any policy or procedure that you were
18 taught, "This is how we deal with the boys who bed wet"?

19 A. Well, I was aware again of how to -- and especially to
20 protect -- to protect their -- to protect the boys
21 themselves from the embarrassment of others, I think
22 that was my biggest -- my biggest problem, that you
23 wouldn't -- especially with the older boys. It was to
24 try and keep them from embarrassment.

25 Q. I think what you told me when we spoke earlier was that

1 they needed to have a bath after they had wet the bed so
2 that they could go to school clean.

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. That was both the younger boys and particularly you felt
5 the older boys that was the position.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You did say, sister, that after a while you and SR1
8 devised a rota -- is that correct -- for bedwetting?

9 **A. That's right. That's right.**

10 Q. And --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. What did that involve, sister?

13 **A. It involved we alternatively got up at 2.30, 3 o'clock**
14 **and got the boys up to the toilet, the ones that wet**
15 **their beds, and in time it helped the boys, but, as**
16 **I said before, it prevented them being embarrassed in**
17 **front of the other children, plus clean going out to**
18 **school.**

19 Q. I will come back to -- I am just going to deal with some
20 of these issues at this stage and then we will come back
21 later to deal with some of the complaints that have been
22 made about some things in the home.

23 **A. Definitely. Thank you.**

24 Q. Sister, one of the things that we were discussing again
25 was during your time in Termonbacca you were unqualified

1 at that stage and were you ever aware of what the
2 legislation said or the regulations about the governance
3 of children's homes in Termonbacca?

4 **A. Not really.**

5 Q. Were you aware, for example, that the voluntary homes
6 regulations at that time said that corporal punishment
7 could only take place in certain circumstances?

8 **A. Yes, I would have been aware of that. We would have
9 been aware of (inaudible).**

10 Q. Would there have been a discussion -- I beg your pardon.
11 Sorry.

12 **A. No, there wouldn't have been a discussion.**

13 Q. There wouldn't have been --

14 **A. Not to my memory.**

15 Q. One of the things we talked about was a document that
16 was prepared in England in 1951 and the Ministry of Home
17 Affairs here sent it to every voluntary children's home,
18 and it was a memorandum on the conduct of children's
19 homes. I can look at that, but I think it is quite
20 a lengthy document, but it deals with a number of
21 issues, including discipline and bed wetting. Were you
22 ever made aware of that memorandum, sister?

23 **A. Not to my memory.**

24 Q. I asked you if that was sent to a children's home, first
25 of all, who would have received that correspondence?

1 **A. It would have gone through to the Superior of the home,**
2 **who would then give it to SR1.**

3 Q. That was because SR1 was in charge, but --

4 **A. Of the children.**

5 Q. Of the children, but would she have been in charge in
6 1952? Have you any information as to who was in charge
7 of child care back in 1952?

8 **A. I think it could be .**

9 Q. Sister .

10 **A. Sister , yes.**

11 Q. Thank you, sister. Can I just ask how often would you
12 have seen Mother Superior during the day in Termonbacca?

13 **A. Well, as the boys would say, she could appear at any**
14 **time.**

15 Q. So she just --

16 **A. She came over regularly. Yes, she came regularly during**
17 **the day, yes.**

18 Q. When she came, did she speak to the boys?

19 **A. Always she would greet them or ask them, and if there**
20 **was any fighting or anything, she would talk to them.**

21 Q. Was fighting a common problem with the boys, sister?

22 **A. It wasn't as common -- it was no -- no more -- no more**
23 **than I witnessed at home or with any children of that**
24 **age, yes.**

25 Q. They would have had their friends and their foes

1 effectively?

2 **A. They would. They would. Well, the foes did not**
3 **turn up. They weren't too clear. Do you know what I**
4 **mean? You couldn't ignore the foe, but they all seemed**
5 **friendly enough with each other.**

6 Q. They were mostly pretty good friends and played
7 together?

8 **A. They were, yes, and looked out for each other.**

9 Q. Can I ask then on another matter, sister, do you
10 remember visitations from the congregational hierarchy
11 from Mother General or Mother Regional?

12 **A. The Mother Regionals would be more frequent, but Mother**
13 **General would come I think -- I am not sure if it was**
14 **she that came or one of her representatives from**
15 **Hammersmith would come. I think they would come about**
16 **once a year or maybe two. I can't be 100% sure on that.**

17 Q. What -- that was Mother General came once a year?

18 **A. The Mother General and then the Regionals appeared. She**
19 **would come I think it would be at least once a year or**
20 **maybe six months. I couldn't say which was which, you**
21 **know.**

22 Q. Well, can I ask whenever they did come to visit
23 Termonbacca, what was discussed? Did you meet with
24 them, first of all?

25 **A. We would. She would question about the behaviour of the**

1 children and how they -- she would have had a discussion
2 with SR1 and the Superior of our care of the place and
3 the actual provisions for care of the children.

4 Q. And would you --

5 A. She would go into all of that.

6 Q. She would go into all of that?

7 A. She would see, yes, and then she would see us as sisters
8 -- the other sisters individually.

9 Q. Did she ask you -- what did she ask when you she met
10 you? Did she ask you about the children?

11 A. Well, she would. She would ask how we were able to
12 manage them. She did know we had a few problems, but
13 not -- not big problems.

14 Q. Sister, a separate issue then about the funding of
15 Termonbacca. Were you aware of how you were funded?

16 A. Broadly, but I know at the very first five years that
17 I~was there funding was very scarce and Superiors --
18 each Superior coming in helped to move things on and
19 other Superiors depending on what was built up before
20 her, but it was the voluntary people and also -- it's
21 the voluntary peoples, the St. Vincent de Paul and
22 church collections, I was aware that that was our
23 income.

24 Q. You were self-sufficient --

25 A. Yes, our income.

1 Q. -- in terms of farm produce. Is that correct?

2 **A. We were. That helped a lot, yes.**

3 Q. And later is it correct there was a capitation fee paid
4 by those children placed by the Welfare Authority?

5 **A. Definitely, yes.**

6 Q. And there's --

7 **A. I had no idea.**

8 Q. There was also a Catholic Social Services --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- a diocesan Social Services, as it were.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. That was separate from the Western Health & Social
13 Services Board. Am I right?

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

15 Q. And they were placing children in the home also?

16 **A. They were placing children, but again as far as
17 I remember the income from them wasn't as good as from
18 the Social Services.**

19 Q. So they were paying some income, but at a lower rate
20 than the Board?

21 **A. They were paying some at a much, much lower rate, yes.**

22 Q. The Inquiry has heard, sister, from a number of people,
23 and I think you have already spoken to this, that in
24 Termonbacca there was reliance on the older boys to
25 supervise the younger boys. What can you tell us about

1 that, sister?

2 **A. Again it would be more or less when we went to church in**
3 **the morning and that would be I'd say maybe at most**
4 **about half an hour to three-quarters of an hour, but**
5 **usually about half an hour, but we would have the**
6 **children up and in the dining room for their breakfast**
7 **at that time. So they were all in the one place.**

8 **Q. And so once you got the children up into the dining room**
9 **you would leave the older boys to look after them while**
10 **you went to mass. Is that correct?**

11 **A. Yes, yes. That's right, yes.**

12 **Q. And there was -- just pausing there, there was daily**
13 **mass in Termonbacca, was there?**

14 **A. Except -- except at the week-end, Saturday.**

15 **Q. No mass on a Saturday?**

16 **A. No, no, not -- not that I can remember now.**

17 **Q. Where did the priests come from to say mass?**

18 **A. They came from St. Columb's College. They took it in**
19 **turns to come. They might take a week each or it could**
20 **be alternative days, maybe every two or three days, but**
21 **it would spread out about among two or three priests.**
22 **They'd be priests that would be teaching in the college**
23 **and would come and then come back to their work.**

24 **Q. Sister, you talked about being at mass and the older**
25 **boys looking after the children in the dining room for**

1 about half an hour to three-quarters of an hour while
2 mass lasted.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Was there any other time when the older boys were on
5 their own looking after the younger boys?

6 **A. That would be mostly the time. Maybe in the evening**
7 **when we'd go to office. We had office. I am not sure**
8 **now what time we had it, because it changed. It**
9 **changed.**

10 Q. How long might that --

11 **A. That would maybe take about fifteen minutes or less,**
12 **yes.**

13 Q. So those are the only times that the older boys would
14 have been in charge of the younger boys?

15 **A. Well, mostly anyway. I can't remember any specific**
16 **incident where they'd be on their own with the boys,**
17 **yes.**

18 Q. I take it with a group as large as you have said you and
19 SR1 had to look after they must have broken up into
20 groups to play, did they?

21 **A. The bigger boys were forever going out and playing**
22 **football whereas the little ones wouldn't be, and then**
23 **we had our playground, a concrete playground outside the**
24 **building that they could play on whereas the bigger boys**
25 **could go off to the pitch.**

1 Q. Can I just ask was there any supervision of the football
2 pitch and the playground by yourself and SR1?

3 **A. A general -- a general supervision to the best of your**
4 **ability.**

5 Q. In paragraph 11 and 12 of your statement, sister, if we
6 can go back to that, which is page -- this is the first
7 statement that you gave to the Inquiry. That's
8 page SND-11645, just paragraphs 11 and 12. You say:

9 "I know some of the boys ..."

10 This is talking about what age the boys would have
11 been leaving Termonbacca, and you say they were there up
12 until about age 17, but you say:

13 "Some of the boys would have left earlier than that,
14 but when the boys finished school at that time, there
15 were no jobs, so some of them would have stayed on in
16 the house until they could find accommodation or a job.
17 Some of them would have helped out around the farm or
18 the house and would have remained on maybe for a bit
19 longer."

20 You talk about some boys were being left, in
21 paragraph 12, because their parents couldn't afford to
22 have them back.

23 "I do recall sometimes the parents simply could not
24 afford to keep their children at home and would have
25 left them in the home until they were older. I recall

1 one incident when a mother came to collect her son, but
2 when she found out he was still in school, she decided
3 to leave him with us. The times were not good and
4 people simply could not afford to feed everyone in their
5 family. If a boy was old enough to work and could
6 contribute to the family, then the parents may well have
7 brought them back into their home to try to boost the
8 family", income I presume you mean by that, sister.
9 "I~do not say this in any negative way and I fully
10 understand the difficulties faced by these parents."

11 So there were boys there in Termonbacca who you
12 might have expected could have gone back to their
13 families sooner --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- but were left there because their families couldn't
16 afford them. There were other boys who had reached
17 school leaving age but couldn't get jobs and the nuns
18 kept them on to work in Termonbacca. Is that correct?

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

20 Q. Is it correct, sister, that there were other boys who
21 left Termonbacca but came back regularly to visit, say,
22 after work in the evenings or at the weekends?

23 **A. Yes. That was -- not -- not in big -- not in big**
24 **numbers, but some of them did. There was times when**
25 **they'd come back and you'd give them something to eat.**

1 Q. And can I ask were those boys who effectively left or
2 ought to have left, were those the older boys that would
3 have been looking after the younger boys in the home?

4 **A. They would have been. Some of them would be the same
5 age as some that were still with us.**

6 Q. But they -- they came in in the evenings anyway and
7 maybe would have been looking after the boys when you
8 were at office?

9 **A. No. They wouldn't be looking after them. It would be
10 only the children and only the older boys in the home
11 that would be given that.**

12 Q. So the older boys who left, the ex-residents, didn't
13 have that function at all?

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

15 Q. We have talked a little bit, sister -- I will come back
16 again to deal more with that issue when we talk about
17 the complaints that we have heard, but can I just ask
18 you -- you have talked a little bit about this in any
19 event -- about the position of Termonbacca within Social
20 Services, and I think you have explained that it was
21 later that children were effectively placed there by
22 Social Services, and you remember a number of social
23 workers from the Board. Is that correct?

24 **A. I do.**

25 Q. And --

1 A. I couldn't name them all now, but the ones that stand
2 out very much in my mind: TL 19 -- he'd be a
3 senior social worker; SND 425 , who used to come to
4 our monthly meetings and also to the unit. No. Sorry.
5 That would be Nazareth House I am going on to now.

6 Q. Yes. So it was -- can we --

7 A. But my memory -- sorry.

8 Q. Go ahead.

9 A. My memory of -- sorry.

10 Q. I apologise. The television screen causes a delay
11 sometimes, sister. So I don't mean to interrupt you.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You remember certain social workers from Termonbacca.
14 I think we talked about SND484. Is that correct?

15 A. SND484 was one. TL 19 was one.

16 Q. And SND465, do you recall her?

17 A. SND465, I remember SND465 well, yes.

18 Q. And we also talked -- we will talk later about how
19 Termonbacca actually employed its own social worker,
20 didn't it?

21 A. Yes, and again that was -- sorry.

22 Q. Can you explain how that came about, sister?

23 A. That came about -- it was SR 144
24 that -- SR 144 was the person that
25 got us a social worker, because she was aware of the

1 difficulties -- difficulties in offering any support to
2 the boys who had left us, and we had reports back that
3 accommodation wasn't good, and they were as vulnerable
4 as the children in the home in many ways, because they
5 were all out there without any experience of the outside
6 world and they needed -- so it was true that she went
7 out and got the social worker, and initially the morning
8 time he would spend -- he would -- how can I put it --
9 he would go and visit the boys that weren't working, or
10 if they were working, he would go into their place of
11 employment, or if it was the pub, he would go in there
12 whereas with us wearing our habit or whatever, we
13 wouldn't have the same access to them.

14 Q. So if --

15 A. I mean, we wouldn't embarrass them by going into their
16 homes as much as that. We couldn't offer them the help
17 that we would like to offer them, but SND332 knew the
18 boys, and the boys he didn't know he got to know them
19 and was aware where each one was and tried to -- to
20 socialise with them if he could.

21 Q. He has spoken to the Inquiry, sister, and he has talked
22 about how he helped them with things such as finding
23 accommodation and that sort of thing.

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. I think he would accept that his principal role

1 certainly became one of looking after the ex-residents
2 more so than the children in the home. Would that be
3 fair?

4 **A. That's right, but for the home too he helped set up**
5 **individual case reviews and all of that --**

6 Q. Yes.

7 **A. -- and files on each child --**

8 Q. Yes.

9 **A. -- whereas maybe --**

10 Q. I am going to talk about that, sister, very shortly,
11 about the file keeping and the record-keeping, but can
12 I ask just a few more general questions before we get on
13 to that? If we can go to paragraph 88 and 89 of your
14 witness statement, the first witness statement that you
15 gave to us, you talk in that statement about what
16 problems there were in Derry at that time. It's
17 page SND-11657, please. Now -- just at the top of that
18 page, paragraph 88 you say:

19 "There were a number of incidents which I think are
20 important to bring to the attention of the Inquiry. At
21 this time in Derry there was a lot of trouble and it was
22 something which caused the people in the area great
23 distress and also upset the Sisters. We were determined
24 to try to keep the troubles as far from the boys as we
25 could manage.

1 I recall speaking to representatives of the local
2 IRA leader at the time and discussing with them my
3 desire to keep the boys away from the IRA. I had
4 contacted the local commander and asked if he would come
5 to see me and he sent these people down. After my
6 discussions with them I believe that the number of boys
7 involved from Termonbacca were very limited. I can
8 recall only one boy who may have been involved and I am
9 delighted if anything I said or did may have contributed
10 to a reduction in their activity within paramilitary
11 organisations."

12 I take it when you are talking about the boys, you
13 are talking about the old boys, sister, the boys who had
14 left Termonbacca?

15 **A. Yes, the older boys, that's right, yes.**

16 Q. You were showing concern for what their lives were like
17 not only in terms of --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- their living accommodation and their employment, but
20 also whether or not they would get involved in untoward
21 behaviour outside that.

22 **A. Yes. I even learned from them afterwards that they**
23 **themselves were -- because the local -- the local boys**
24 **going to school, it was the general topic, IRA, IRA, and**
25 **I could know by the boys and by their discussions that**

1 they would go and join, and I would imagine it would be
2 more to be part of the IRA so as to keep them with their
3 friends at school or outside of school.

4 Q. That concerned you enough to take steps to try to
5 address that?

6 A. Yes. That was the only step I could take, and
7 I discussed it with my Superior and she said, "Whatever
8 is best for the boys", and she too made a ruling that
9 SND332 would be more supportive to the boys to offer
10 them some help.

11 Q. Another couple of general matters, sister, if I may. Do
12 you remember did any of the boys you were looking after
13 have sisters in Bishop Street at that time?

14 A. I was aware and again that was my -- maybe that will
15 come up later. It was a concern for us from day one and
16 it was our general hope that some day we would be able
17 to keep those children together, because my own
18 experience as a young child, , our
19 family would have been divided up only for our
20 grandmother, and that stayed with me all my life, and
21 the same thing was in my mind when I was working with
22 the children, that if we can at all keep them together,
23 keep families together.

24 Q. That happened later, though -- isn't that correct --
25 that the family were kept together?

1 **A. Oh, definitely. When we got our new building, we took**
2 **in a family of nine at one stage.**

3 Q. So it only -- families were only able to stay together
4 in Termonbacca, boys and girls, when you got the new
5 building. Is that right?

6 **A. In one particular family there were nine children and**
7 **I could only take five and the other four went over to**
8 **the other group, to SR6's group (inaudible) --**

9 Q. But they were still within --

10 **A. They were still within the home, yes.**

11 Q. Earlier before that before the new building, sister, it
12 was correct that the boys and girls would have been
13 split? Girls would have gone down to Nazareth House and
14 the boys stayed in Termonbacca. Isn't that right?

15 **A. Well, now, for the few that I remember that went down**
16 **I heard their reaction later, that when they went down,**
17 **the girls were in a big hall, and they would go in and**
18 **naturally they would be too shy to go forward. They**
19 **would be in the same hall as the other group of girls**
20 **whatever were there, yes.**

21 Q. Can I ask you if the boys wanted to go down to visit
22 their sisters in Term... -- sorry -- in Bishop Street,
23 did that happen?

24 **A. Not to my knowledge. I remember one -- I remember**
25 **a (inaudible) boy going down. There was two used to go**

1 down and visit their sister. Again they were
2 short-term. They went down to Nazareth and met with
3 their sisters, yes. I think the sisters might -- sister
4 might be a bit older than them, them boys.

5 Q. What about in the ? Would -- boys have complained
6 to the Inquiry, sister, that they didn't know that they
7 had a brother in the home. Can you help us with that?
8 Is it possible that they wouldn't have known?

9 A. It could be possible that a child was taken in in
10 Termonbacca without a mention of a sister or whatever.
11 Sometimes when they came in, the sisters would have gone
12 to Nazareth House, Bishop Street or another
13 accommodation, but you wouldn't always at the early
14 stages get a lot of information in where sisters or
15 family -- but again later things improved.

16 Q. What about boys in Termonbacca knowing that they
17 actually had a brother in Termonbacca as well?

18 A. Well, there was no hiding from a brother, because they
19 were all in the same unit. The only problem was if they
20 were babies, they would be in nursery, and it wouldn't
21 be always convenient for the big boys to go to the
22 nursery, but if they asked, somebody in the nursery
23 could -- because they had a little more staff than we
24 had, would bring them over and there was a little room
25 where they could see them.

1 Q. Sister, am I right in thinking that there wasn't a lot
2 of contact between Termonbacca and Nazareth House,
3 Bishop Street in terms of the children mixing?

4 **A. No, there wasn't. There wasn't. Again I would say like**
5 **shortage of staff and somebody providing transport,**
6 **although the distance wasn't too much, but it was for**
7 **lack of staff and again that went back to lack of**
8 **funding.**

9 Q. Can I ask, sister, just leaving Termonbacca a moment --
10 we will come back to it -- but you then -- the next
11 spell you spent in Derry was to and that was
12 in Nazareth House in Bishop Street.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. By this stage you were qualified and you were much more
15 experienced. When you came to Bishop Street in ,
16 you had also experienced the homes by that
17 stage. Isn't that so?

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

19 Q. How did Bishop Street in compare, first of all, to
20 your experiences in Termonbacca and also to the
21 homes?

22 **A. Well, the experience in Termonbacca before -- before**
23 **before we divided up, and more so at , when we moved**
24 **into the new building, previous to there was**
25 **absolutely no comparison with the provisions we were --**

1 we were providing. For one thing we didn't have proper
2 accommodation whereas Bishop Street had a lovely
3 building. They had a sitting room, dining rooms and
4 bedrooms, which whether there might be two or three
5 children in the one room was so different to children
6 experiencing maybe twenty children or more in the
7 dormitories.

8 Q. You have said that actually when you moved to Bishop
9 Street in , you got permission to divide the
10 bedrooms up further into single bedrooms for the girls.
11 Is that correct?

12 A. That would be about a year or so after I went there.

13 Q. And if that --

14 A. I could see that we had -- sorry.

15 Q. No. Go ahead. Sorry.

16 A. I could see that we had older boys and small boys
17 sleeping in the one room. You might have three or four,
18 and I felt it wasn't right that they were doing that.

19 Q. So you split the older boys off from the younger boys
20 into single bedrooms. Is that right?

21 A. We had twenty children in each group. There were two
22 groups, one downstairs, one upstairs. I got permission
23 when I discussed it with my Superior and she gave me
24 permission to get them divided, and we ended up with
25 a room for each child, their bed, locker and wardrobe

1 and we also had a sink in their room that they could
2 brush their teeth and wash themselves.

3 Q. And at this stage in ... --

4 A. It was much, much better.

5 Q. Yes, and in it was operating as family units.

6 Isn't that correct?

7 A. It was. It was.

8 Q. Well, in Nazareth House did the Sisters have to rely on
9 the older girls at this stage, , to supervise the
10 younger children or the older boys to supervise the
11 younger children?

12 A. No. They only had two of the older girls working with
13 us and they were -- one was helping in the school and
14 the other one was with us. She was doing domestic as --
15 she was employed -- she was actually employed as
16 a domestic, if I can put it that way, and our other
17 staff were paid staff as well. So it was who
18 was working there. They were paid. Our (inaudible)
19 were paid as well as the caring staff.

20 Q. So in Nazareth House in to you had paid staff.
21 Qualified staff?

22 A. No, they weren't qualified at that stage. It was then
23 when -- it was actually SND 453 who come to make his
24 general inspection, and it was at that stage I explained
25 to him that we couldn't move forward until we get proper

1 **payment for the children and we need money for funding**
2 **for to qualify the staff, and it was he who suggested --**
3 **it was through him we got the funding for our staff. We**
4 **had seven staff qualified and we had -- we had seven**
5 **qualified.**

6 Q. Sister, I am going to ask you to just confirm that all
7 the children in Nazareth House in when you went
8 there had been placed by Social Services. Is that
9 correct?

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

11 Q. I am going to ask you just a couple more questions and
12 then we will take another break for lunch, but I will
13 ask you those questions, and I am sure the Panel have
14 a few more questions before we break for lunch, but just
15 a couple more from me.

16 **A. Right.**

17 Q. We did discuss this earlier as well and I wanted to know
18 at what time in your experiences looking after children
19 did you become aware of problems such as sexual abuse or
20 the peer sexual abuse among those you had to deal with?
21 When did you first become aware of that as an issue,
22 sister?

23 **A. It was during my training period in that we**
24 **(inaudible) that because of abuse was more known at that**
25 **stage than it was at the earlier days, and also that**

1 I became -- I became more aware -- more aware myself of
2 what may have -- could have happened and may have
3 happened, but didn't have any knowledge of yet --

4 Q. Sister, you told --

5 A. -- but definitely -- sorry.

6 Q. Sorry. You related to me an incident involving a boy
7 about eight or ten in Termonbacca.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you remember that?

10 A. I do. You asked me for the name earlier on. Can I give
11 it to you now?

12 Q. If you have the name, please do. Obviously it can't be
13 repeated outside this room, but yes.

14 A. His name was SND35 and he was about 10 years of age and
15 the little child that he was interfering with was
16 a little boy about 6 -- 5 or 6. He was SND212 and he
17 was part of a family of who had come to us.

18 Q. Now you -- that was in Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?
19 You left Termonbacca --

20 A. No.

21 Q. Sorry. This was in --

22 A. Sorry. That was in the new building in Termonbacca
23 where we had the groups, yes.

24 Q. So it must have been at some stage after and before
25 you left in

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

2 Q. Correct me what I am -- but I think what you told me is
3 that -- what did do you? What exactly do you remember
4 about that incident? You saw this boy. Where was this?

5 **A. In the bedroom. When they came in from school, they**
6 **used to go upstairs to change and I or one of the staff**
7 **would always go -- one would look after them while they**
8 **were changing. I went into the bedroom and it was SND35**
9 **and SND212 that were there and I saw him. He had opened**
10 **the little boy -- he had literally pulled down his**
11 **trousers at that stage. His -- his underwear were**
12 **pulled down and the other boy was --**

13 Q. He was interfering with him?

14 **A. -- if I may -- he was, yes, yes.**

15 Q. What did you do what you saw this, sister? What steps
16 did you take?

17 **A. Well, I waited until both of them were fully dressed and**
18 **sent them off to a room downstairs before me. Then**
19 **I spoke to SND332, . He in**
20 **turn got in turn with both social workers and both were**
21 **made aware of the incident and I know he had meetings**
22 **with them as regarding the -- the whole incident.**

23 Q. Do you remember being part of those meetings at all?

24 **A. I can't remember, but I was aware that SND332 had done**
25 **it, that SND332 had spoken to both.**

1 Q. I know it's difficult, but if we accept that this -- you
2 had moved into the new building in and we know that
3 SND332 left about before Termonbacca closed in ,
4 this must have happened in that period of time between
5 and Would that be about right from your
6 memory? You left in .

7 **A. It would.**

8 Q. So it must have been before that.

9 **A. It was before that, yes. It was with -- because I left**
10 **in . I was definitely there when that happened.**

11 Q. Had you ever come across such behaviour before, sister,
12 with the boys?

13 **A. Never, no, no. If I did, I would have acted on it.**

14 Q. Certainly you accept from what you have said in your
15 statement -- and we will come back to that -- but you
16 accept that such behaviour may have been happening and
17 you wouldn't have known about it, but now looking back,
18 you accept that it could have been happening?

19 **A. Well, the fact that sexual abuse is so -- at that stage**
20 **it was an unspoken about abuse that we wouldn't have**
21 **been -- that I wouldn't have been aware of it, and the**
22 **fact that there was such a big number, and even -- even**
23 **among five, six it was all settled if it could have**
24 **happened everywhere, and it was only around the time of**
25 **training we were made aware to watch and be care... --**

1 **be watchful at all times.**

2 Q. So prior to you receiving your social work qualification
3 you wouldn't have known what signs to look out for in
4 a child who had maybe been abused. Is that what you are
5 saying?

6 **A. I wouldn't. I wouldn't have. Later you -- no, at that**
7 **stage I didn't.**

8 Q. Okay. I am going to stop there, sister. Now the Panel
9 Members will have some questions they want to put to you
10 just before we take a break for lunch and you and I will
11 come back to speak later.

12 Questions from THE PANEL (cont.)

13 MS DOHERTY: Hello, sister. I have got some questions for
14 up. Can you see me okay?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Thank you. Can I just go back to the issue of the
17 ex-residents, and when they came back to visit, were
18 there any limits on where they could go in the house?
19 Were they able just to go around the house freely?

20 **A. Well, we had -- the dormitories were out of question for**
21 **them when we were in the old building and in the new**
22 **building they were not allowed to go upstairs or into**
23 **the children's shower room and, of course, the toilets.**
24 **We were always made -- we were well aware of the**
25 **toilets, that they wouldn't be going in and out there,**

1 **and again the toilets were on the corridor leading from**
2 **the sitting room, so that you would be aware that they**
3 **could go in and out.**

4 Q. So they could go in and out of the toilets in the main
5 corridor, but they couldn't go upstairs to the
6 children's rooms?

7 A. **No, no. Even the children -- even the children weren't**
8 **allowed to go up other than bedtime when somebody would**
9 **be with them.**

10 Q. Okay, but, sister, when you and your other sisters were
11 doing your office, who would supervise to make sure that
12 nobody was going upstairs or ...?

13 A. **Well, at that stage we had staff. We had -- at least we**
14 **had -- sorry.**

15 Q. Sorry. That would have been later. When you first came
16 to Termonbacca, there weren't lay staff --

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. -- were there?

19 A. **No, no, no.**

20 Q. So then if there were older boys coming back, if you
21 were away at prayer, then would there be anybody --

22 A. **Well, at that stage -- sorry. At that stage the older**
23 **boys weren't coming back. It was only the boys we had**
24 **worked with that started to come back when they left the**
25 **home. Do you know what I mean?**

1 Q. I know what you mean. So are you saying when you first
2 went to Termonbacca, the older boys --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- because Termonbacca had been open for quite a while
5 -- were you saying at that stage there were no
6 ex-residents visiting?

7 **A. No, no, not that I remember.**

8 Q. Not that you remember?

9 **A. It was -- yes.**

10 Q. Okay. Can I just ask -- you talked about sexual abuse
11 and that that was something that you became more aware
12 of once you received training, but were you aware of --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- the issue of maybe boys sexually exploring with each
15 other, you know, with masturbation and things? Was that
16 something you were aware of in relation to boys?

17 **A. You would have been vaguely. You'd vaguely know right
18 from wrong if they were or if you had seen anything, but
19 I didn't see anything, but I would be -- my main worry
20 was bigger boys bullying little children.**

21 Q. And you would have been -- would you have been worried
22 about that before you went on your training?

23 **A. Oh, right from day one.**

24 Q. Right from day one?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. So right from day one you would have seen maybe a risk
2 of older boys bullying the younger children?

3 **A. It was something you were always looking out for to**
4 **protect the smaller children or even boys of the same**
5 **age, because some were more powerful than the others.**
6 **You had to watch out for the vulnerable ones.**

7 Q. Okay, and in terms of the boys, did they receive any
8 sexual instruction, any instruction in sex education,
9 anything at that time?

10 **A. Well, the older boys will have got some amount in the**
11 **secondary school.**

12 Q. But none in -- none in Termonbacca itself?

13 **A. None in Termonbacca, no, as such, no, no at that time.**

14 Q. But you -- you and your sisters would have been aware of
15 the potential for them to be maybe getting into sexual
16 exploration?

17 **A. We would at the age they were, yes, yes.**

18 Q. Thank you very much, sister.

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 MR LANE: Sister, the regulations define corporal punishment
21 largely because of caning and things like this. Now
22 I appreciate that you didn't use the cane formally in
23 Termonbacca or Nazareth House, but how would you define
24 corporal punishment otherwise, because clearly if you
25 occasionally smacked a child on the bottom, you didn't

1 think you were breaching a regulation about corporal
2 punishment then. So did you con... -- what would you
3 define as corporal punishment?

4 **A. I would define it as thumping them with your fist or**
5 **beating them with a stick, or a cane, or a strap, as**
6 **some of them has accused me of, things like that.**

7 Q. And so those are things you would consider to be quite
8 unacceptable?

9 **A. It would, yes.**

10 Q. Okay. Thank you.

11 **A. Thank you, sir.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you about funding in general,
13 sister, and facilities? If I have followed your
14 evidence correctly, when you first came to Termonbacca,
15 the physical facilities, the building itself, was not as
16 good for its purpose as even Nazareth House was at
17 Bishop Street for the children there. Is that right?

18 **A. To me Bishop Street was a mansion in comparison to**
19 **our -- if you like, you could call them sheds, the**
20 **dormitories. They were galvanised sheds and with wooden**
21 **structures inside them whereas in Bishop Street they had**
22 **a good solid building. They had sitting rooms, dining**
23 **rooms, large bedrooms. They had much more facilities**
24 **than we had in the line of comfort for the boys.**

25 Q. If I can ask you to compare two very different periods

1 in your work, what you -- and we will probably hear
2 about this this afternoon -- what you achieved later on
3 in Termonbacca was small units with children living in
4 more of a home atmosphere, a family atmosphere rather
5 than an institutional atmosphere. Is that right?

6 **A. Definitely. Yes, that's right, and we had families, as**
7 **you say, brothers and sisters in Termonbacca.**

8 Q. Yes. Am I right in thinking that you had already
9 experienced that type of provision when you were in
10 and in ?

11 **A. Yes. I would have seen that, yes, in both houses.**

12 Q. So for whatever reason Termonbacca wasn't as advanced as
13 some of the other places you had already been in in
14 terms of physical facilities?

15 **A. There was no -- there was no comparison. There was**
16 **really no comparison.**

17 Q. Now we may be coming on to this later, but if I could
18 perhaps anticipate. Is it the position that each house
19 of the Sisters' Order was really expected to make itself
20 self-sufficient financially; in other words, it was up
21 to you to raise the money?

22 **A. Well, that would have been the way. I'd say every house**
23 **started off with limitations, but definitely I think we**
24 **were in a worse -- excuse me -- we were in a worse**
25 **position, because Derry had great -- great poverty --**

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- no employment. There was a lot of disadvantages in
3 Derry, especially in the olden times. The boys -- older
4 boys, and, I mean, these would be the first boys that
5 came into Nazareth, they could explain the poverty of
6 the children going to school. One boy, SND15, said he
7 used to steal a slice of bread for his pal going to
8 school, because he'd come to school without food.

9 Q. I see.

10 A. That's to give you an idea. Yes. That was the early
11 days.

12 Q. Thank you very much. I take it we will later on be
13 exploring the funding issues with SR2 we have heard
14 about in the with the Board?

15 MS SMITH: To some extent, Chairman, but not in any great
16 detail.

17 CHAIRMAN: No. I thought we would just touch on that at
18 this stage.

19 Thank you very much, sister. If we start again
20 let's say at 2.10.

21 MS SMITH: Sister, if you can go now and we will see you
22 again at 2.10.

23 A. Thank you very much.

24 (1.10 pm)

25 (Lunch break)

1 (2.10 pm)

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (cont.)

3 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, sister. Can you hear me?

4 A. I can, yes.

5 Q. Sister, what we are going do now is I am going ask you
6 some more questions until about 3 o'clock and then we
7 will take a shorter break, if that suits you. Are you
8 happy with that?

9 A. That's fine.

10 Q. Then when we come back after the break the Panel Members
11 will ask you some questions. Rather than at the end of
12 the session they will ask you at the beginning of the
13 session, and then I will continue to question until we
14 take another break, but we'll see how far we get, and --

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. -- if at any stage apart from those breaks you feel you
17 want a break, please just say to us.

18 A. Thank you.

19 Q. Now I am going on, sister, to ask you about
20 record-keeping and whether or not you can assist the
21 Inquiry with what records were kept on each child. Do
22 you recollect what records were kept?

23 A. Can I ask you what period are you speaking of now
24 because there is three periods and I seem to run one
25 into the other: the old home, the temporary and Bishop

1 **Street.**

2 Q. If I can ask you -- we are dealing with Termonbacca
3 first of all. In , when you first arrived in
4 Termonbacca, were there any records being kept on each
5 boy?

6 A. **I remember SR1 I think kept the medical ones like going
7 to the dentist, the doctor visiting and whatever reason
8 he visited for and hospital appointments, any injuries,
9 things like that.**

10 Q. And did that form of record changing (sic) change at
11 some point?

12 A. **I'm not sure what time we started there. I think it
13 might be in the -- I think it was in the new building
14 that we actually started to keep the little booklets,
15 the exercise book.**

16 Q. Yes. You are aware, sister --

17 A. **I --**

18 Q. Sorry.

19 A. **I'm not sure when those started.**

20 Q. Well, you thought that it might have been when you moved
21 to the temporary accommodation that SR1, because you had
22 split into two groups, that she thought it would be
23 a good idea to keep a record on each child. Do you --
24 is that position?

25 A. **It could have been. I can't just remember which, yes.**

1 Q. You described them to me a little blue exercise books
2 that you kept on each child.

3 **A. That's correct. That's correct.**

4 Q. You are aware that the Inquiry heard from one of the
5 boys you looked after, SND136, yesterday. He spoke to
6 us and he brought along some documents that he had been
7 given. We have a copy there for you. If that can just
8 be pulled up on the screen, please. This is SND-17685.
9 Sister, can I -- is this the kind of exercise book that
10 you were talking about?

11 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

12 Q. Obviously this is a photocopy. We are not looking at
13 the original, although the original should be with us.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Can I just ask you to turn and look at some of the
16 entries in the page (sic)? If we could turn over the
17 first page.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. Sorry. If I can maybe just go to the -- page SND-17687.
20 Can I first of all ask, sister, is this your
21 handwriting?

22 **A. At first I hesitated, because my handwriting to be so
23 shaky, because I have arthritis in my hand, and it took
24 me a minute to recognise my own writing.**

25 Q. But that is your handwriting?

1 **A. Yes, that's mine. It is, yes.**

2 Q. So this is the kind of detail you were recording in the
3 exercise books.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. And did you keep this kind of record for every child you
6 looked after?

7 **A. Yes. Once we started we kept them.**

8 Q. I take it you just worked through the exercise book to
9 the end and then started a new one?

10 **A. Yes, if that was the case.**

11 Q. Did you number them? Did you start with --

12 **A. I imagine we would have.**

13 Q. And where were they kept, sister?

14 **A. They were kept in the old building. In the old building**
15 **we had a filing cabinet there, but I'm not sure --**
16 **I can't recollect where we kept the others, because**
17 **there was very little provisions.**

18 Q. You said that SND332 came around the time that the new
19 building opened. Isn't that correct?

20 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

21 Q. He actually then devised a different system for keeping
22 records about the boys. Is that right?

23 **A. Yes, yes. He started up a proper file, yes.**

24 Q. We have seen -- and I will come back to it later on when
25 I want to ask you about something in particular -- but

1 the Inquiry has seen there was an internal case review.

2 That would have been completed by yourself or SR1 or

3 SR6. Is that correct?

4 **A. Yes. The social worker, the child's social worker, if**
5 **he had one at that time, he would be the one that would**
6 **lead the Inquiry. He'd lead the case conference --**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. -- and maybe his senior.**

9 Q. But internally in Termonbacca in the files that

10 -- sorry -- SND332 had created is it correct
11 that the nuns would have put information in those files
12 on each boy?

13 **A. They would provide SND332 with the information, and if**
14 **there was a case review or whatever, SND332 would be**
15 **present at the review as well.**

16 Q. So he is maybe the one who wrote down what you or SR6
17 was telling him. Is that right?

18 **A. Yes, yes.**

19 Q. So those internal case review documents were probably
20 compiled by SND332?

21 **A. It was.**

22 Q. Just -- we will come back to some of the documents,
23 sister. I am not going to go through these, but this
24 little exercise book, you put photographs in them as
25 well. Is that right?

1 **A. Everyone had, yes.**

2 Q. Where would the photographs have come from?

3 **A. The photographs were probably taken in the house at some**
4 **stage.**

5 Q. So --

6 **A. We had individual ones.**

7 Q. You would have taken photographs of each child?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Just on the front of SND136's file we have a little
10 small photograph of him.

11 **A. Yes, yes. Sometimes we wouldn't have photographs of all**
12 **the children, but ones that would -- as soon as we had**
13 **some available, they would go in the book. Mostly it**
14 **would be group photographs that was taken, you know.**

15 Q. We know that some of the boys went out to stay with
16 families at holiday time, and would there have been
17 photographs of those times that might have gone into
18 these little exercise books brought back by the boys?

19 **A. I imagine they would have. I can't recollect whether**
20 **they have or not, no.**

21 Q. Certainly I am not going to go through these exercise
22 books in any details with you, sister, but I'll just --
23 I know you don't have this document here, but there
24 appears to have been another boy that you certainly kept
25 a record about and that was a HIA130. Do you remember

1 him, first of all?

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

3 Q. And there was a record kept. It is SND-2183, which is
4 another example of this little exercise book record.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Can I just be clear, sister: these exercise books were
7 the only things that you would have written notes about
8 the boys in?

9 **A. Yes. Right.**

10 Q. I think we -- our picture seems to have frozen a little,
11 sister. Ah! It's -- that's better. I can see you move
12 again.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. So do you have any knowledge yourself about what
15 happened to all of the files on the boys, these little
16 exercise books and the files that SND332 was keeping
17 when Termonbacca closed?

18 **A. I wasn't there at the time but when the person came up
19 to me before -- I rang SND 40 , who was in
20 Bishop Street with me, and I did know that all -- all
21 the -- all the files and whatever from Nazareth House
22 went to -- from Termonbacca went down to Bishop Street,
23 and then when Bishop Street itself closed, all those
24 files, including large filing cabinets, were sent down
25 and I believe it was SND491 from Social Services that**

1 put them in a room in Gransha where their headquarters
2 is.

3 Q. And this was someone who you worked with in Nazareth
4 House. So was he able to give you this information?

5 A. Yes. SND 40 , who took over the group when
6 I was leaving to go to , she packed everything,
7 and the children that were in the house at the time, the
8 first group went out to the Waterside. All their
9 history and whatever went with them. The history of any
10 children before -- who had left went into those files as
11 well as anything that was belonging to Termonbacca.

12 Q. We have heard -- sorry. So, sister, I just want to be
13 clear. You are saying that those boys who left
14 Termonbacca to go to the Waterside did you say or to
15 another home -- is that it -- their records went with
16 them?

17 A. Yes. They went to the Waterside, yes.

18 Q. And SND136 --

19 A. It would have been --

20 Q. Sorry.

21 A. These -- these boys wouldn't have been in Bishop Street.
22 These would have already left care.

23 Q. They would have left care.

24 A. They left care, yes.

25 Q. So their records then went to Social Service

1 headquarters at Gransha?

2 **A. Yes, and they would have gone -- they would have gone --**
3 **when the home closed in Termonbacca as far as I know all**
4 **the records came to Nazareth House, Bishop Street, and**
5 **were kept there until the house in Bishop Street closed.**
6 **Then all of that went down to Gransha, including locked**
7 **cabinets.**

8 Q. Sister, SND136 has said how he came to receive these
9 documents was because after he left Termonbacca --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- SND332 phoned him up and asked him to come up and
12 collect them. Did that happen? Did boys get told, "We
13 have got some documents you might want to take with
14 you"?

15 **A. Well, SND332 was in charge, if you like, because he was**
16 **and he was dealing with the boys as**
17 **they went out, and definitely whatever he said he did is**
18 **correct, but personally I don't remember.**

19 Q. That's fine, sister. Thank you. If I can move on to
20 another issue. I am wondering when you were in
21 Termonbacca, did the boys ever complain to you about
22 anything?

23 **A. We would have small complaints, but I can't think of**
24 **anything definite.**

25 Q. I mean, for example, some boys have said that they made

1 complaints about how they were being abused by older
2 boys. Were you ever told that?

3 **A. No, I was never told that.**

4 Q. And if I might just ask was there a complaints procedure
5 in Termonbacca?

6 **A. No. I think -- at least I know that started -- I think
7 we should have it in the new building, but I cannot be
8 sure, but definitely we had it in Bishop Street.**

9 Q. So although --

10 **A. I cannot --**

11 Q. So there was a complaints procedure when you were in
12 Bishop Street in the , in the

13 **A. I just can't remember at the moment.**

14 Q. I think one of the things that you said to me, sister --
15 and if I've got this wrong, please correct me -- but you
16 said that when you were in the houses in , you
17 saw that they kept a complaints book, and that you asked
18 if you could have an example of that when you were
19 moving back to Derry, to Bishop Street, and you brought
20 that example with you, and you set up the complaints
21 procedure in line with what they had been doing in
22 . Is that right?

23 **A. At that time -- I am trying to think exactly what was
24 happening. It definitely was me now or the sister
25 before me in Bishop Street brought the books down, but**

1 we had it changed for to be used in Bishop Street. Now
2 I can't say was it already there or did I do it myself,
3 but we definitely got it from the lodge, because they
4 had a complaints procedure going.

5 Q. So there was a definite procedure in operation in
6 Belfast and that was adopted in Derry, if I can put it
7 that way?

8 A. That's -- yes, yes.

9 Q. Now, sister, just a couple of general questions about
10 when you were in Termonbacca. Your contact with Social
11 Services would have been through the social workers who
12 came to see the boys they had placed there. Is that
13 right?

14 A. That's right, plus the fact things have changed
15 dramatically from we moved to the new building. We had
16 TL4, first of all. We always had the individual social
17 workers that dealt with the child and there was a very
18 good relationship with them and a great support to us as
19 well, and overall we -- this is going to Bishop Street
20 now that I can -- is that all right?

21 Q. Yes, sister, certainly.

22 A. We had SND 425 , SND 425 and SND491, who were
23 Senior Social Workers. Then lower down TL4. In the
24 he visited Termonbacca regularly. He would not
25 only come to visit, but he would also come and make me

1 Q. And was this the first time that the sisters separated
2 off the two, as it were, that one nun would be in charge
3 of the school and a different one in charge of child
4 care?

5 **A. Yes, it was the first time, because up to that time**
6 **I came there it was the teachers who were responsible**
7 **with some -- a limited number of staff as well.**

8 Q. You have mentioned TL4 and it might be an appropriate
9 time to deal with him. We received a statement from
10 him, which can be found at SND-17541, and at
11 paragraph 2(b) and 3 he actually outlines his
12 involvement with Nazareth House.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. If I might just say in general terms what he says in his
15 statement is that the Sisters were open to developments
16 taking place, and you yourself he describes as a strong
17 advocate for the children in Nazareth House, and he said
18 that you challenged board managers if you felt your
19 children were being disadvantaged compared to those who
20 were placed in statutory homes. Can you recall
21 challenging the board managers in any way, sister?

22 **A. I never let them go with anything. It wasn't a case of**
23 **telling things, but I would ask them, you know, but**
24 **overall they couldn't help me much with the finance,**
25 **because they didn't have enough for themselves and the**

1 number of homes they had to care for, but they did help
2 me in any other way they could possibly help me.

3 Q. And can you --

4 A. They helped the children.

5 Q. One of the things you said they helped with you getting
6 more qualified staff or getting the staff that you had
7 qualifications?

8 A. Well, it was through their -- through their Department
9 we got the money for training, and then was
10 the person who donated -- who gave her time to monitor
11 me during that period, and she also helped the staff
12 training and directed us in the short courses that we
13 availed of.

14 Q. TL4 has said that he actually acted as a mentor to you
15 at your request. Do you recollect that?

16 A. Maybe I didn't see him as a mentor, but he definitely
17 was there any time I needed, and most evenings on his
18 way home from work, if any new developments came up, he
19 would enlighten me of them regarding social work.

20 Q. He said you presented as a warm and caring person,
21 sister, with insight into the complex influences on each
22 child. Was that as a result of the fact that you
23 yourself had got that social work qualification that
24 that gave you that extra insight, as it were?

25 A. Well, I think -- to be honest, I think it was just

1 second nature to me although I lacked the
2 qualifications, but it was a natural thing for me to
3 care for children and to see their hearts or whatever.

4 Q. He also mentioned the fact that you arranged to convert
5 staff accommodation in Nazareth House into
6 a self-contained flat to help prepare children for
7 leaving care. He talks about that in paragraph 6 of his
8 statement. Do you recall doing that, sister?

9 A. I do. There was -- my room was on that floor as well
10 when I slept upstairs, and there was one -- yes, we had
11 one there at that time, and then eventually we had two,
12 two young people up there preparing, and it was a great
13 help because they learned to cook for themselves and to
14 manage things, but we were able to keep an eye on them
15 that they never ran out of anything, that they had
16 sufficient.

17 Q. Can I just confirm that this was a world away, if I can
18 put it that way, from how the boys who were leaving
19 Termonbacca were prepared?

20 A. It was. It was of no comparison, and the boys leaving
21 Term... --

22 Q. Sorry, sister.

23 A. (Inaudible due to problem with live link). Some of the
24 ones -- some of the boys and girls that had access to
25 the independent living would be nearer -- would be older

1 -- you know what I mean -- 16, 17, whatever.

2 Q. Sorry, sister. The screen at our end broke down briefly
3 there and I missed the start of what you were saying,
4 but I had asked you was there a world of difference
5 between the preparation of the boys leaving Termonbacca
6 and the girls leaving Nazareth House, and you were going
7 to say that there was. What preparation was there for
8 boys leaving Termonbacca?

9 I don't think she can hear me. Sister, can you hear
10 me? Sister? There appears to be some technical
11 difficulties, Chairman. Sister, can you hear me or see
12 me?

13 CHAIRMAN: We will rise for a moment to see if we can sort
14 this out.

15 (2.42 pm)

16 (Short break)

17 (2.46 pm)

18 MS SMITH: Sister, can you hear me okay? Sister? SR2, can
19 you hear me? Sister? It doesn't look like it is
20 working. Just before you came in, Panel Members, sister
21 was able to see and hear me.

22 CHAIRMAN: We are aware of that. Let us know when we are
23 back on line.

24 (2.48 pm)

25 (Short break)

1 (3.00 pm)

2 CHAIRMAN: Now just before we resume, ladies and gentlemen,
3 the time frame for the rest of the day. While SR2 has
4 only been speaking to us for about 25 minutes or so
5 prior to this interruption, what I am minded to do is we
6 will carry on now until about 3.15, by which time we
7 will have had about 40 or 45 minutes, take a fifteen
8 minute break to 3.30, and then one last session, and
9 then we will stop for the day, because it's been a long
10 day for her in particular, and then we will resume
11 tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

12 MS SMITH: Did you follow that, sister?

13 **A. I did. Thank you.**

14 Q. If I can just ask you then maybe on this one issue that
15 we were just talking about before the technology
16 interfered with what we were doing. You were saying
17 that the preparation for girls -- children leaving
18 Nazareth House and the individual flats that you had for
19 them -- you were talking about the preparation for them
20 leaving care, and I was asking about what preparation
21 there was for boys leaving Termonbacca during your time.
22 As you said, it was a world apart.

23 **A. Yes. I would still say the same thing. There's no**
24 **comparison.**

25 Q. Was there any preparation for the boys leaving

1 Termonbacca?

2 **A. Well, there wouldn't be, because -- no. I don't know**
3 **how to describe it. I would say little or none.**

4 Q. Is that, sister, one of the reasons why you were anxious
5 that SND332 assisted with the boys who had left?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You became aware that they really simply did not have
8 the coping skills, if I can put it that way, for life
9 outside the home?

10 **A. The loneliness apart from the daily running of their own**
11 **little flat or whatever, but I felt the loneliness for**
12 **them was something severe, you know. If you like,**
13 **they'd only have their own friends, maybe boys that left**
14 **house. They would cling to each other and that's why**
15 **I think that they are close to each other. They all**
16 **know what each other are doing.**

17 Q. They are still close today. Is that what you are
18 saying?

19 **A. I would say yes. Even for -- from boys like SND136 that**
20 **came back from , even years ago when I was in**
21 **Bishop Street you could tell that the connection -- they**
22 **were just one of the home boys again, if you like, when**
23 **they came back. It was back home for them.**

24 Q. Sister, what I am going to do now, and we will see how
25 far we get with this today, but I am going to start

1 asking you about a number of general complaints that the
2 Inquiry has received, and with one exception all of
3 those really relate to Termonbacca. So I am going to
4 say just what the complaint was in a broad sense and ask
5 you for what your response to that is. Now I know that
6 you will have dealt with some of these in your
7 statement, and we can go back to that, SND-11647.

8 The first thing I am going to ask you about, sister,
9 is a lot of the boys have complained about something we
10 were talking about, which was the lack of supervision,
11 and you agree that you were under-staffed in
12 Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?

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

14 Q. If we can just look at SND-11647, please, this is again
15 the first witness statement that you gave to the
16 Inquiry, sister, and there, paragraph 25, if we could
17 scroll down:

18 "The only time I would not have been around would
19 have been if I was helping out in the laundry or perhaps
20 at times when I was saying prayers. I do agree that we
21 did not have the staff that we would have wanted. We
22 simply could not afford to pay staff and relied heavily
23 on people from the local area helping out or
24 volunteering if they could."

25 Again at paragraph 48, please if we could go to that

1 page, which is SND-11651. This is talking about
2 a specific person, but the middle of -- the last couple
3 of sentences on paragraph 48 you say that:

4 "We were under-staffed and could not physically
5 watch all of the boys for 24 hours a day."

6 In paragraph 61 on SND-11653 -- again this complaint
7 was being made by someone who you looked after -- and at
8 paragraph 61 you say:

9 "When I look back, I would have to agree with
10 HIA130. We did not have the staff that we needed to
11 look after so many children. It would have been better
12 to have a significantly larger number of staff, although
13 we simply could not have afforded them. I think that
14 the lack of staff was unfair to the sisters who had to
15 look after the boys. This often meant long hours where
16 the sisters had to get up early to sort the boys out
17 with their breakfast and so on in the morning, getting
18 them off to school and then ensuring that the house
19 itself was kept clean and tidy, clothes were laundered
20 and repaired.

21 We would often be working into the night. I recall
22 on occasions waking up in the bed with sewing or darning
23 in front of me where I had simply fallen asleep in my
24 bed whilst trying to do some of the repairs. I also
25 think that it was unfair on the children, who could not

1 be shown the level of care, love and affection that they
2 needed, bearing in mind where they came from. The need
3 to maintain a proper and efficient system probably meant
4 that the children did not have the freedom that we would
5 have liked to have given them."

6 Sister, that is what you said about the issue of
7 lack of supervision and under-staffing in Termonbacca.
8 Just a couple of points on that. Did you or SR1 ever
9 say to the Mother Superior, "Look, sister, we need more
10 help here. Is there any way we can get more help?"

11 **A. I think it was obvious for everybody that more help was**
12 **needed but we knew there was no funds. The funds were**
13 **the big obstacle.**

14 Q. So there really was no point in asking, because you knew
15 there was nowhere you could get the staff from?

16 **A. We knew that our Superior was even more worried than**
17 **what we were because of the level of staffing, yes.**

18 Q. Would it have been possible, sister, and maybe it might
19 not have been -- I know that you -- oh, dear. Can you
20 hear me, sister? No.

21 (Live link interrupted)

22 MS SMITH: Sister, can you see and hear me again?

23 **A. I can.**

24 Q. That's great. I was just wondering -- I know there
25 won't have been the funds to pay for any outside lay

1 people to come in to help out, but would it be possible
2 to get any other sisters to come from other convents or
3 was that not an option?

4 **A. To my knowledge it wasn't an option.**

5 Q. You say that the lack -- the lack of staffing, as it
6 were, was unfair to the sisters. Could that have put
7 a strain on the sisters' patience and tolerance for the
8 children at all, sister, in your mind?

9 **A. What I said when I made that remark was we wouldn't be**
10 **able to give individual children the love and the care**
11 **that they needed.**

12 Q. And would it have led to children -- perhaps certain
13 frustration on your part and maybe losing tempers with
14 children? Would that have happened at all to your
15 memory?

16 **A. I don't think it had anything to do with us as losing**
17 **our heads with them, because we were in the greatest**
18 **sympathy for the children, and really they were really**
19 **deprived children, and I think from looking back now and**
20 **for all the boys that are making complaints now a lot of**
21 **the anger came out from there because we were seen as**
22 **the people holding them when maybe they felt that they**
23 **were at home. I think that is something we have picked**
24 **up many a time, that the anger is coming out now,**
25 **especially when they see other boys doing well and**

1 **themselves not doing so well. I feel all -- it is all**
2 **a backdrop, if you like, from their childhood.**

3 Q. So if I can just understand what you are saying to me,
4 sister, is that you feel that a lot of the complaints
5 that are being made about yourselves and your care of
6 the children are a result not so much of what the
7 Sisters did and how they looked after the boys but their
8 anger that they were put in there in the first place and
9 haven't maybe made such a go of it in life, if I can put
10 it in that way --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- as they might feel --

13 **A. And that's -- yes.**

14 Q. -- they might feel they might have done if they hadn't
15 been in the home. Is that what you are saying?

16 **A. Yes. That's what I feel, and I feel a lot of it can go**
17 **back for them in that -- what type of home that they**
18 **have before they came in. What were their sufferings?**
19 **What were they subjected to, and also even the child in**
20 **its mother's womb, if there was neglect and whatever**
21 **there, it could be all coming out now in their**
22 **frustration, and I feel it's only the people that were**
23 **caring for them that they can hit out at.**

24 Q. Sister, I am conscious it is now 3.15. So that would
25 seem to be an appropriate place for us to take a break

1 Q. We are going to continue on for about another -- bit of
2 an echo. We are going to continue -- sister, we are
3 going to continue on for another while and then we will
4 probably finish for the day, but I am sure the Inquiry
5 Panel will have some questions before we actually finish
6 for today, but I will go as far as I can with you before
7 that.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 Q. One of the complaints that we have had from a number of
10 people is that they were subject to physical abuse by
11 older boys. Did you ever witness that happening,
12 sister?

13 **A. No. If I did, I would have done something about it.**
14 **There may have been an odd squabble which didn't appear**
15 **anything other than rough play.**

16 Q. But you certainly didn't see any major physical violence
17 or physical abuse meted out by older boys on younger
18 boys?

19 **A. No, I did not.**

20 Q. Can I ask you then you -- did anybody ever complain to
21 you about older boys hitting them, for example?

22 **A. If there was an incident, I am sure, but I cannot**
23 **remember any definite incident, no.**

24 Q. If -- you can't -- I know I am probably speculating
25 a little bit, because you are saying that you can't

1 remember any specific incident, but if someone had come
2 and complained to you about a particularly bad incident
3 of being physically abused by an older boy, what would
4 you have done about it, sister?

5 **A. Unfortunately we didn't have social workers, somebody**
6 **you could call in from outside at that stage, but again**
7 **I would try if I was in isolation, but if I was on my**
8 **own with them in the group with -- if I was in the**
9 **bigger -- in the bigger group, I would talk to SR1 and**
10 **ask her for advice.**

11 Q. But you are saying to the Inquiry that you never had to
12 do that?

13 **A. Not -- no, not that I can remember.**

14 Q. Do you accept now that such abuse could have happened?

15 **A. I can. I can well accept, because our numbers were so**
16 **big, and you just could not -- I mean, if somebody**
17 **thumped somebody with a fist that you didn't see while**
18 **you had your back turned or whatever, incidents could**
19 **have happened -- I will not deny that -- and possibly**
20 **has happened.**

21 Q. The other aspect of that is that some of the children
22 have said or the people who have spoken to us have said
23 that they were actually physically chastised by older
24 boys at the request of nuns. Did you ever ask any boy
25 to physically chastise --

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. -- another child?

3 **A. No, I never did.**

4 Q. Did you ever see any of the other sisters do so?

5 **A. No. I worked with SR1 and during that time we both had**
6 **more or less the same pattern of working. Again**
7 **I didn't see anything of that sort.**

8 Q. I know you are speaking there about SR1. Any of the
9 other nuns, did you ever witness them ask an older boy
10 to, "Look, sort that boy out", you know, "Make sure he
11 knows how to behave" or anything like that?

12 **A. Well, again it could have happened. Again we were in**
13 **separate groups at the time SR1 left. Anything could**
14 **have happened I may not be aware of, but I certainly was**
15 **not told that such and such a thing happened.**

16 Q. That's just one of the things, sister, that we -- when
17 we talked earlier, you had said that you looked after
18 your group when you split into two groups and you
19 wouldn't necessarily have been aware of what was going
20 on in the other group. Isn't that correct?

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

22 Q. If I can just deal with a couple of other issues that
23 you do deal with in your statement. If we could go to
24 page SND-111647, please. This is at -- this is -- a lot
25 of the boys have complained that, sister -- and I know

1 you are aware of this -- that they were sexually abused
2 by older boys and that this has been -- a number of
3 people have complained to the Inquiry about this. At
4 paragraph 6 of your statement -- 26 -- sorry -- of your
5 statement, if we could just scroll down, you say:

6 "I did not see anything like the matters described
7 by", a particular boy. "I have to accept that it is
8 possible that such events -- that events such as the
9 bullying described, whether it be physical or sexual
10 abuse, could have happened. I was not informed or
11 advised of anything like this. We were not trained or
12 given any instruction on things to look out for which
13 would have indicated that anything was happening, and
14 I did not see or hear anything from any of the boys
15 which would have given me concern."

16 You accept, sister, that again because of the
17 reasons that you have outlined with under-staffing and
18 that that this kind of abuse might have been going on
19 during your time in Termonbacca?

20 **A. Could have. Possible that it was.**

21 Q. But you certainly deny that anybody ever said to you
22 that they were being abused in this way?

23 **A. No, no. I know that some boy did say he told me.**

24 **I can't remember now which boy it was, but definitely if**
25 **I had known, I would have done something about it and**

1 **enquired of somebody --**

2 Q. And --

3 **A. -- to know what, yes.**

4 Q. Sorry, sister. I didn't mean to interrupt you. You
5 said you would have enquired of somebody.

6 **A. I would have gone for advice from somebody, and at the
7 time we were still in the old building and, as I say, up
8 to maybe -- we didn't have social workers
9 come in, but I would know well enough to ring one or ask
10 advice.**

11 Q. Would you have asked any of the other sisters' advice if
12 something like that had been told to you?

13 **A. I would certainly. I would certainly.**

14 Q. Can I just --

15 **A. (Inaudible).**

16 Q. I beg your pardon. Can I just check, sister? You said
17 earlier, at some stage much earlier today, that SR1 --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- at that time was in charge of overall child care. So
20 can one assume that if a boy came and told you that
21 another boy was interfering with him, the first person
22 you might have spoken to was SR1?

23 **A. Yes, because she'd be definitely there on the ground and
24 again she would have had much more experience than I had
25 and I would have told her.**

1 Q. You did tell us that -- the one incident that you spoke
2 about earlier this morning -- that at that stage SND332
3 was in the home and you went and you told him about what
4 you yourself had witnessed.

5 **A. I did.**

6 Q. I take it if in around that time when SND332 was in the
7 home if another boy came and said, "Sister, this boy is
8 interfering with me" or "This boy is doing something
9 wrong", you would have then gone to SND332 rather than
10 one of the other nuns at that point?

11 **A. I certainly would, because he was the one that really**
12 **was there to give us advice and to protect the children**
13 **as well as ourselves.**

14 Q. Thank you. If we can just move on to another couple of
15 issues. You know that the boys have complained about
16 the clothing that was provided for them, and you address
17 that in paragraphs 31 and 34 of your statement, where
18 you say:

19 "The boys would have obtained the best uniforms that
20 we could provide for them. The uniforms would have been
21 similar to those that the other children from the local
22 areas would have been wearing. I recall Desmond's
23 factory supplying us with clothes and also occasions
24 when Desmond's factory sent us pieces of fabric. This
25 would mean we were able to make clothing for the younger

1 children and mend some of the clothing we had that would
2 need repair. We were always very grateful for the
3 generosity of Desmond's factory."

4 Then at paragraph 34 you say:

5 "I can confirm that the clothing we provided was the
6 best that we could. We had little money available to
7 us, but that was no different to the rest of society at
8 the time. The boys would have worn hand-me-downs and we
9 simply could not afford to replace clothing or to throw
10 clothing out simply because someone had grown out of it.
11 If clothes could be repaired and mended and given to
12 a younger or smaller boy, then that is what was done.
13 I know that things started to improve with the provision
14 and quality of the clothing in the middle of the
15 but again this comment is made on my own experience. My
16 one ambition was to make the children as respectable as
17 possible going out of school."

18 That is what you would say to the Inquiry about the
19 clothing that the sisters provided to the boys in
20 Termonbacca.

21 **A. That's right, and eventually when we were able -- when**
22 **we were able to let the children go out with a member of**
23 **staff working with them to choose their own clothes,**
24 **that was happening in the early , or**
25 **thereabouts.**

1 Q. Before that, sister, the clothes -- before did the
2 nuns chose (sic) the clothes for them? Clothes were
3 donated. Is that correct? Apart from what Desmond's
4 were giving you by way of clothing and cloth were there
5 other clothing being donated?

6 A. No, not that I can remember, but I know that my Superior
7 at the time, and, in fact, all the Superiors until the
8 latter years, would buy clothing in bulk like pullovers
9 and shirts and according to the sizes we would need, but
10 in time we were able to get them individual that they --
11 we tried not to have any two children wearing the same
12 pullover. Even that was stressful to stretch it out
13 like that, but from my open experience my one ambition
14 was that our children would never be known by their
15 clothing, either in the school or when they went out at
16 other times, that they were individual and nicely
17 dressed, that their dress would not recognise them as
18 the home boys.

19 Q. Why was that, sister? Had there been a problem that you
20 were aware of of them being recognised as home boys from
21 the clothing provided?

22 A. I have heard from old boys coming back and having to
23 share their stories that people -- how will I put it --
24 boys had complained that -- even with SND15, when
25 I interviewed him and , he said, "Our clothing

1 was poor", he said, "but we were warm. We had shoes on
2 our feet. We had a bed to sleep. We were never -- we
3 had a bed to sleep on and we were never hungry. In the
4 early , he said, "things were bad, but things were
5 far worse outside where children were going to school
6 barefoot and hungry".

7 Q. Sister, then if I can move on to the issue of food in
8 Termonbacca, and you address this at paragraph 32 just
9 on the page that is before us on the screen. You say:

10 "In regard to the suggestion that perhaps the food
11 the Sisters had was better than the boys' I have to deny
12 this. I note that that boy says that he meat we
13 received made his mouth water. The food was cooked at
14 the same time in the kitchen. I am sure the food was
15 basic by modern terms but it was always nutritious and
16 it was always the best that we could afford. The
17 Sisters would have eaten the same food as the boys.
18 Separate meals was not cooked for the Sisters and we did
19 not get meals other than the same meals that the
20 children had."

21 If I might just ask you it is correct, though,
22 sister, is it not, you wouldn't have eaten at the same
23 time as the boys. Isn't that right?

24 A. No. We were there to serve the children. Like one of
25 us would go to an early dinner and the other one would

1 go to a later dinner, but the difference that appeared
2 to the children I would imagine -- that's my own
3 assumption -- the boys' meals, because of so many
4 children, came up in very large dishes where our dishes
5 would be smaller, five or six or whatever number it was
6 were there.

7 Q. So you think that --

8 A. Definitely the -- definitely the food was cooked as far
9 as I know -- I wasn't in the kitchen, but I know from
10 eating the food and having maybe served the children
11 beforehand that the food was the same.

12 Q. Do you remember anything with -- do you remember
13 anything about -- some of them have complained, for
14 example, about lumpy porridge they were made to eat that
15 they didn't like. We have heard other boys who said
16 there were cornflakes. Have you any recollection of the
17 kind of menu that was provided?

18 A. I think it was mostly porridge in the morning. I do
19 remember in the early days having porridge, but like
20 later that changed, but at the time it was usually
21 porridge, porridge, bread and tea.

22 Q. If we could go to page SND-11656, again you talk about
23 the food, and that's paragraph 86. You say -- again
24 this is in -- you are giving comments at this stage.
25 You say:

1 "I have already said that the food which was cooked
2 and served to the boys was the same food which was
3 cooked and served to the sisters. The same would have
4 applied at Termonbacca as it was in Bishop Street. The
5 house in Termonbacca was very lucky to have a farm where
6 fresh vegetables could be grown to add to the food which
7 the children were given. The food was limited in its
8 scope. This was more a reflection of the times and
9 finances available to the sisters than any kind of
10 comment on the preparation of the food itself. I would
11 say that the food was always of a nutritious and
12 balanced nature. I would not have thought that the boys
13 were hungry and they were always given the meals during
14 the day."

15 Do you recollect how many meals a day did the boys
16 get, sister?

17 **A. They got their breakfast in the morning. They were in**
18 **school. They got a break at 10 o'clock as well, as**
19 **I remember, for a sandwich, for a cup of tea or**
20 **whatever. Now I am not 100% in that whether that's**
21 **right or not. They would get a -- they would get**
22 **a sandwich or whatever at the midday. I am not sure now**
23 **-- I can't recollect if the school, Nazareth House,**
24 **served dinners or like that did they have sandwiches.**
25 **More than likely at that early period it would have been**

1 sandwiches. In the evening when they came in from
2 school they got a cup of tea and maybe a piece of
3 cake -- probably more likely bread, because cake and
4 that would be very scarce in those days, and then they
5 had an evening meal, which would mean something cooked.

6 Q. Sister, you are aware that we have received a statement
7 from a SND21, SND21, as she was before she was married
8 --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- who worked in the home at a time. She was one of the
11 staff that you ultimately were able to employ.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. She has told us that the children -- they didn't eat --
14 the nuns didn't eat with the children. You ate in your
15 own dining room and she thought that you ate better food
16 than the children.

17 A. Again she wouldn't be in the Sisters' section. So how
18 she can say that I don't know.

19 Q. Well, the fact that the nuns didn't eat with the boys,
20 might that have led to the perception that you got
21 better food?

22 A. No. It was part of our religious -- our religious -- it
23 was like going to office to say our prayers. It was
24 part of our religious -- that we ate separately from the
25 children under our care. The Sisters always ate on

1 their own. They didn't have outsiders in at our staff
2 (inaudible), but in the latter days when we took them on
3 holidays or when we were able to afford in the groups
4 where we could have a cup of tea, or maybe on a Saturday
5 evening when they would buy in their own food and cook
6 the food with the help of the staff, we would have a cup
7 of tea and maybe share in what they were -- things moved
8 on tremendously, but as a whole the Sisters had their
9 food in the dining room.

10 Q. But what I was asking, sister, is the fact that you did
11 have your food separately from the boys --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- might that have led the boys to believe you were
14 getting something better than they were?

15 A. Well, naturally they can only assume like SND21 assumed.
16 I can't -- I can't know why they have said it, but my
17 own opinion is something as what you have just said,
18 that they could assume we have different.

19 Q. You will know, sister, that -- you know, I will go on to
20 specific allegations that certain boys make. I think
21 that will be tomorrow certainly before we get to that,
22 but one of the allegations is made is that boys were
23 struck by nuns using their belts, and at paragraph 35 of
24 your statement, which is at SND-11649, paragraph 35, the
25 top of that page, you say:

1 "I note that this boy refers to a large black belt
2 as part of the sister's habit. To my recollection the
3 belt described by him was about an inch and a half in
4 width, fastened round your waist, off which large rosary
5 beads hung. The end of the belt hung down at your side.
6 The belt would only have been worn in the mornings, when
7 we were at mass, or on other occasions when we would
8 have been saying prayers. During the day we did not
9 wear a scapular."

10 Just to be clear, sister, for those who are maybe
11 not familiar with what the habit was like in those days,
12 the scapular -- you describe that -- it was something
13 that went over the actual dress part of the habit. Is
14 that correct?

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

16 Q. It looked something like a --

17 **A. And we had -- it had to be held in place with a cincture**
18 **as we called it. That's the belt we wore around, which**
19 **was fastened at the right-hand side, off which our**
20 **rosary beads, our heavy rosary beads, hung off. I would**
21 **say it became down maybe to the tip of your fingertips**
22 **putting your hands straight down. That would be the**
23 **length of it to come down from your waist.**

24 Q. So it would have come down maybe halfway down your
25 thigh, that sort of the length, the belt would?

1 **A. It would come down I would say about the -- about the**
2 **length of your -- from your elbow down from your waist.**

3 **Q. You say that:**

4 "The belt would only have been worn in the mornings
5 when we were at mass or on other occasions when we would
6 have been saying prayers. During the day we did not
7 wear a scapular or belt. Instead we wore an apron, as
8 it would have been restrictive. We would not have worn
9 it during the day when we were working with the children
10 or if we were working in the kitchen or laundry. At no
11 time did I ever see any child -- did I ever hit any
12 child with my belt. I can also confirm I did not at any
13 time see anyone strike a child with their belt."

14 If I can just again ask about the -- when were full
15 habits worn, sister?

16 **A. Habits were worn in the morning and we sent in**
17 **photographs in the in-service clothes that I did, and**
18 **you will see the Sisters in white aprons fastened at the**
19 **back, and they came to just over your shoulder here. We**
20 **wore a white habit with short sleeves. It was meant for**
21 **work.**

22 **Q. So there was a different dress habit, if I can put it**
23 **that way, and a work habit that you wore?**

24 **A. That's right. We wore the white habit and the scap...**
25 **-- the apron over it.**

1 Q. And what about -- some boys have described you wearing
2 like a sleeve cover. Do you recall those being worn at
3 all by sisters?

4 A. We wore -- yes. We wore -- at the beginning when we
5 were prepar... -- we wore very long sleeves that would
6 come down about that much over the tips of your fingers
7 and it was so that the sleeve could be turned up about
8 that, and otherwise we had to keep our hands under the
9 sleeves. That's why they were long, but then things
10 changed as we moved on, and you had just a normal
11 sleeve, something similar to what we are wearing now,
12 and again for work, as you will be able to check in the
13 file, we had short sleeves and a white apron for work.

14 Q. But did you ever wear like a cover to protect the
15 sleeves of your habit, like a white plastic cover or
16 something like that, sleeve cover? Was that ever worn
17 when you were working?

18 A. That's right, yes, and that would come I'd say round
19 maybe just below your elbow and it was under the
20 white -- under the -- it would be over the white.

21 Q. You would have put this over your sleeve to protect your
22 habit from getting dirty if you were working?

23 A. Yes. That's if you were wearing the black habit, but
24 again black habit was rarely worn except in emergency,
25 if you hadn't time to change, for example, but normally

1 **that's what we wore, a white habit and, yes, the sleeves**
2 **were fastened up here by a button.**

3 Q. Sister, can I just ask: the black habit was the formal
4 habit, the dress habit. Would you have -- if you had
5 known there were people coming to visit the home, is
6 that the habit you would have worn to receive visitors
7 in?

8 A. Oh, no. We went -- mind you, if the apron got soiled or
9 dirty, you'd put on a clean one, but normally we were
10 quite presentable, because we were at our work and
11 that's what we wore.

12 Q. Yes. I appreciate that, sister, but what I am saying is
13 if -- I mean, if people were turning up unannounced, you
14 would be still in the work habit, but if you knew that
15 there was somebody coming -- for example, we have heard
16 of St. Vincent de Paul coming on a Sunday to visit the
17 boys. If you knew that was happening, would you have
18 been wearing your black habit in those days?

19 A. You were wearing the same dress as if -- as if they were
20 in every day. We didn't change for visitors coming in
21 and we wore whatever we were wearing at that particular
22 time.

23 Q. On a Sunday would you have worn the work habit or the
24 formal dress habit?

25 A. Formal dress on a Sunday, because there was no working

1 **as such.**

2 Q. On Sundays?

3 **A. On Sunday, yes.**

4 Q. One of the things you said was that the strap was
5 worn -- the belt was worn with the strap going down your
6 right-hand side.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And when we were talking earlier, you made a point to me
9 about that, about your own handedness. You are, in
10 fact, left-handed. Is that correct?

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

12 Q. What you said was that because strap was always worn to
13 the right, that it wouldn't have been possible for you
14 to have hit a child with the belt, given that you are
15 left-handed.

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

17 Q. I think it is only fair to say to you, sister, that some
18 people have said the belt was removed before they were
19 hit with it, and is there anything you want to say about
20 that?

21 **A. Definitely no, I didn't hit them with my strap.**

22 Q. Another general complaint that we have had is about the
23 polishing of floors in Termonbacca. Again paragraph 37
24 of your statement you talk about this. You say that:

25 "[This boy] has alleged that the main corridor was

1 polished by the boys on their hands and knees. To my
2 memory the corridor was washed with a mop, as the boys
3 would often be in and out from playing on the playing
4 field, often leaving trace of mud behind. I remember on
5 a number of occasions mopping the corridor myself and
6 some of the older boys would help me. This could have
7 happened on days when it was wet outside and the
8 corridor may have been wet and slippery when the boys
9 could have been asked to dry the floor off. This would
10 have prevented accidents from occurring. I have no
11 recollection of anyone being asked to work in the
12 corridor on their hands and knees with any form of red
13 polish."

14 Can I just ask, sister, whether or not you remember
15 Cardinal polish being used in the home? Some of the
16 boys have referred to it.

17 **A. That was the colour of the -- of the corridor as well.**

18 It was painted or else red stuff mixed in the cement
19 itself, but there is a possibility before our time that
20 at the early stages that polishing could have been used,
21 but not in our time, because -- I don't know how -- my
22 own common sense even would tell me that children were
23 at risk if the passage -- if the corridor was polished
24 and they are coming in with wet football boots or even
25 ordinary shoes, they could slip and fall. Plus the fact

1 **that you could not keep the corridor polished. To wash**
2 **it was ... yes.**

3 Q. If I could go on to another topic, sister, and that's
4 the issue of numbering. Now I know in your statement
5 you say that -- it might not have been your statement.
6 One of the other sisters has said numbering was used in
7 the home for laundry purposes so that boys could be
8 handed back their own clean clothing after it had been
9 laundered and there was a number sewn on to the
10 clothing. You actually worked in the laundry -- isn't
11 that correct -- at one point?

12 **A. I did. Yes, I did.**

13 Q. Can you confirm --

14 **A. And I also worked --**

15 Q. Sorry.

16 **A. I also worked -- I also worked in the sewing room**
17 **putting numbers on clothing.**

18 Q. And can I -- I mean, I take it, sister, these jobs, the
19 laundry and that, would have been done while boys were
20 at school and the sewing while they were at school?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. But what would have happened --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- during the holiday periods when the boys were off
25 school? Would you still have had to work in the laundry

1 at that time?

2 **A. I would, but at one stage we had a lady and her husband,**
3 **but I think again that was toward the end of the**
4 **that that happened, that she would come in and do the**
5 **main work in the laundry, herself and her husband.**

6 Q. Some of the boys have said that they actually worked in
7 the laundry. Have you any recollection of that?

8 **A. I have every rec... -- every memory of that. They would**
9 **come up and help maybe to pull the shirts or for**
10 **clothing. They would do various jobs up there.**

11 Q. One boy talks about pairing socks. Do you have any
12 recollection of a boy being asked to pair socks, for
13 example?

14 **A. That would be part of sorting out the clothing, yes.**

15 Q. Just coming back to the issue of numbers and calling,
16 did you ever yourself call a child by a number?

17 **A. No. I knew every child's name off by heart and I think**
18 **the fact that I was so long there that the names were at**
19 **that familiar to me that you couldn't even -- that's why**
20 **personally I feel I've never forgotten their names.**

21 Q. Did you ever --

22 **A. The one time -- the only time that numbers were called**
23 **out was when clothing was handed out to them as they did**
24 **before bedroom or some time in their bed... -- in their**
25 **dormitories .**

1 Q. In fairness, sister, some boys do accept that was the
2 purpose of the numbers, although other boys have
3 complained they were not known by their name; they were
4 called by a number. So can I ask you did you ever see
5 anyone else, any of the other nuns, call a boy by his
6 number?

7 **A. No, no.**

8 Q. Is it possible --

9 **A. I did not.**

10 Q. Sorry. Is it possible that might have happened before
11 your time in Termonbacca?

12 **A. Again I don't know.**

13 Q. Another issue was some boys complained that after they
14 left Termonbacca, they went into the , and
15 that they had no say in that at all, and that was not
16 something that they chose to do and that they were
17 placed there without their consent. You say at
18 paragraph 40 of your statement:

19 "Yes, it is true that a number of the boys who left
20 Termonbacca went into . Some also went
21 over to and I do recall that at least one joined
22 . There is suggestion here is that the boys were
23 placed in by the sisters. I strongly disagree
24 with the statement. It was the boys' own personal
25 choice to join and we supported them in their

1 decision. I am happy to say that some boys would have
2 returned to visit us on several occasion and appeared to
3 be happy. This would have been a decision the boys
4 would probably have taken as it involved a career with
5 prospects, employment and an income. Life was difficult
6 at that time and there were little other prospects for
7 them. I certainly was not involved at any time in
8 recommending a boy into or doing anything to
9 place a boy in

10 Can I just ask, first of all, sister, did -- some of
11 the boys that you worked went into . Is that
12 right?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. And have you --

15 **A. Two.**

16 Q. Two?

17 **A. Two boys.**

18 Q. That you remember.

19 **A. Two boys that I remember, yes.**

20 Q. Can I ask --

21 **A. One was --**

22 Q. -- was there any sort of recruitment process where
23 members of came to the home and told the
24 boys about life in or anything like that that
25 led them to go there?

1 **A. No, but there was older boys in who came back**
2 **to visit and I would say even their would**
3 **attract some of the older boys.**

4 Q. And you think that --

5 **A. That was probably one of the reasons, you know. I don't**
6 **know, but the St. Vincent de Paul used to help them when**
7 **they -- especially the ones that had just gone out, and**
8 **it was always the boys that had already left that would**
9 **go into The boys from the house wouldn't go**
10 **straight in.**

11 Q. Another complaint that we have received, sister, is that
12 the nuns made denigrating remarks about children and
13 about their families. Did you ever see or hear any
14 other sister or yourself make any complaint about
15 a child and its family?

16 **A. No, and if the family came, they always got a cup of tea**
17 **or whatever. They were never treated with disrespect.**
18 **That's my own experience.**

19 Q. Again, sister, I am going to put what SND21 has told us
20 in her statement. It's at paragraph -- it's SND-17863,
21 and at paragraph 16 of that she said that:

22 "Nuns commonly said to children, 'I am in charge of
23 you because you have no-one else'."

24 She thought that was a cruel thing to say to the
25 children. Did you ever hear anything like that said to

1 them?

2 **A. No, no, no. I'd be shocked if I did.**

3 Q. One other issue that I want to cover with you, and this
4 may be -- well, we may manage to get about two or three
5 more things covered, sister, before I pass you over to
6 the Panel -- but we have heard complaints that priests
7 visited Termonbacca and, when there, they were able to
8 abuse children. Paragraph 49 of your statement, which
9 is at page SND-11651.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Paragraph 49, there you say that -- again this is in
12 response to something one of the boys was saying. You
13 say:

14 "I note that this boy refers to a particular priest.
15 I do recall this priest and recall that he visited the
16 home on a number of occasions. I do not recall him ever
17 coming as a chaplain or to say mass. I did not see or
18 witness anything about his attendance or behaviour which
19 I would say was inappropriate. No-one has ever raised
20 any concerns with me about his behaviour and no-one ever
21 suggested to me that anything had happened which was
22 inappropriate."

23 You and I spoke about this issue earlier, sister,
24 and I know you have spoken to us this morning that
25 priests came up every day to say mass for the nuns in

1 Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. But this particular priest, you do remember him, and I
4 am going to use his name --

5 **A. I do.**

6 Q. -- but again it can't be used outside. That was SND9.

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. What do you remember about him coming to Termonbacca?

9 **A. He was a gentleman. He lived down the**

10

11 but he has come that way for his -- for his midday walk
12 mostly in the evening, and he would come and he would
13 break his journey before he went on up towards the hill,
14 but he would come to the children's playroom, and I can
15 still visualise him sitting in front of the radiator
16 a distance from where the television was, and you could
17 observe him there and you could observe the children,
18 and he was a man that wasn't too communicative with
19 children, so they'd be playing around but apart. I know
20 HIA11 has said something about him sitting on his knee.
21 I don't think that was possible, because he was a very
22 short man, and I don't think would have held a child on
23 his lap, but again he was sitting out in the middle
24 where he could have been seen.

25 Q. That's what you remember about that particular priest?

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

2 Q. Were there any other priests came to visit Termonbacca?
3 Apart from the ones who came to say mass and this
4 particular priest did anyone else ever call in that you
5 remember?

6 **A. We had a priest that came and gave the children a week's**
7 **retreat, which enabled them to go to confession and make**
8 **any -- talk to the priest. Again it would be in the**
9 **church where he could be seen.**

10 Q. And was that an annual retreat, sister?

11 **A. No, no. It was a once-off.**

12 Q. Just on the one occasion?

13 **A. It only happened once.**

14 Q. Would it ever have been the case that a child who had
15 come in from a family, the family might have asked the
16 priest to call in to Termonbacca to see how that child
17 was faring? Do you ever remember anything like that
18 happening?

19 **A. I'd say very rarely, if anything, if it ever happened.**
20 **I have no memory of them, yes.**

21 Q. Paragraph 53 there in your statement, sister, we talk --
22 I mean, a lot of the boys have said they were made to do
23 excessive chores, and you say in paragraph 53 that:

24 "The boys would have been asked to do chores around
25 the house. The chores would have been the sort of

1 chores that children in houses would have been asked to
2 do, dusting, cleaning, mopping, etc. They would not
3 have been given any particularly difficult chore and
4 they were definitely not beaten in the way described or
5 at all in regard to these chores."

6 So that -- your recollection is boys were never
7 asked to do anything more than a child at home might be
8 asked to do?

9 **A. Never, never. That's right.**

10 Q. You are aware also, sister, that boys have complained
11 about Jeyes Fluid being used in the home.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You talk about this at paragraph 56 there. You were
14 talking about a particular boy and you talk about
15 numbers being used as the labelling system. Sorry. 54.

16 I beg your pardon. Going up to 54:

17 "I never recall the children being bathed in Jeyes
18 Fluid. I do recall Jeyes Fluid being used around the
19 home and in particular being used in the bathroom for
20 cleaning around the toilets. I did not at any time put
21 Jeyes Fluid in a bath, and I do not, in fact, recall any
22 incident when Jeyes Fluid was put in a bath."

23 Sister, you are aware that that has been a recurrent
24 complaint, and even yesterday SND482 has said there was
25 a small amount of Jeyes Fluid put into the bath. It

1 didn't cause him any difficulty, although some people
2 have said it did cause them difficulty. You, in fact,
3 were supervising bath time. Is that correct?

4 **A. I did. Can I say before that SND482 came from a much**
5 **older group than the group we were working with and it**
6 **is possible he did experience that, but it didn't happen**
7 **in my own time.**

8 Q. So can you say -- have you any recollection of when that
9 practice might have stopped? Did it -- even in the
10 early when you were there was it being used or had
11 it stopped by then?

12 **A. Even in the early stages when I went there Jeyes Fluid**
13 **wasn't -- we used what we call green Fairy Soap. We**
14 **didn't use Jeyes as such.**

15 Q. Now, sister, again we have talked about quite a lot
16 today and I am conscious that we want to finish in about
17 fifteen minutes. So I am going to stop there and that
18 will be all that I will ask you today, but the Panel
19 Members are going to now ask you some questions and then
20 hopefully we will stop for the day very shortly.

21 **A. Right. Thank you.**

22 **Questions from THE PANEL (cont.)**

23 MS DOHERTY: Sister, can I just ask you you know when you
24 had the large groups of boys and there was just two of
25 you, how did you exercise authority over them, because

1 a large group of boys of different ages, you know, they
2 would carry on with each other. How did you keep
3 control of them?

4 A. Well, you just did your best, and if you saw somebody
5 starting -- some one or two starting to fight or
6 whatever, you know, we'd intervene, but I can honestly
7 say I never had a severe experience with trying to
8 separate them. I do remember on one occasion where
9 a boy, he got angry with -- they had a game I think it
10 was of snooker, and he got angry and he just tossed the
11 table upside down, for it was an oldish one, which meant
12 it virtually fell to pieces. The other boys around, the
13 big boys, they literally jumped on him and they did
14 put -- he swore at them. He used all kind of language
15 and they actually took some liquid soap and tried it put
16 it in his mouth, but SR1 intervened. I was down
17 somewhere outside of the room. I heard the noise myself
18 and I ran in, and it was because this had happened, but
19 our Superior, as I said before, she would appear from
20 nowhere. They came in as we had separated the boys and
21 she took the boys responsible apart and spoke with them.
22 They were big boys as well. They'd be the older ones in
23 the unit.

24 Q. And would the boys ever be cheeky to you or cheeky with
25 the other sisters? Would they ever give cheek?

1 A. In a small memory, but nothing, you know -- I think --
2 I think that is one of the reasons I am so shocked at
3 what they are saying today, because I never had any
4 nasty experiences from any of them. Even before when
5 I left Termonbacca every one of them were back to visit
6 and see me the day I left, and the same -- but the same
7 boys now, some of the same boys that are now making the
8 allegations, before I went to they invited
9 me out to a meal, and again there was good relationship
10 seemed to be there, but I was shocked at what things
11 come up -- the allegations that have been made, but
12 I never saw those children as rough and tough, because
13 many of them was there from babyhood, if you like. As
14 a matter of fact we always addressed them as "our boys"
15 but in a good, friendly manner.

16 Q. Okay. The last thing just, sister, and you have been
17 very patient today with all that has been going on, but,
18 you know, in the midst of actually what sounds like
19 a very challenging life with a lot of demands in it were
20 in times when you just felt your kind of patience and
21 your ability to keep on going was challenged?

22 A. I think the breaks we took when we went to church,
23 I think that was our -- our time for a break.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. But I did say that we went -- in the later days we did

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25

WITNESS SR2 (called)2
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY4
 Questions from THE PANEL35

WITNESS SR147 (called)41
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY42
 Questions from THE PANEL66

WITNESS SR2 (cont.)69
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY69
 (cont.)
 Questions from THE PANEL (cont.)100
 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY107
 (cont.)
 Questions from THE PANEL (cont.)159