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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Friday, 9th May 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 34)

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

1 Friday, 9th May 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS SR2 (cont.)

4 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (cont.)

5 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

6 MS SMITH: Good morning, sister.

7 **A. Morning, Christine.**

8 Q. I take it from that that you can definitely hear me --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- and that the technology is working. So, sister, what  
11 I am going to do is continue from where we left off  
12 yesterday and ask you about some of the general  
13 complaints that the Inquiry has heard about, and then  
14 I will move on from there to some of the specific  
15 allegations that have been made about you, but we will  
16 deal with the general complaints, as we were doing  
17 yesterday.

18 Now, sister, we have -- if we can just go to your  
19 statement, which is SND-1164... -- paragraph 56 is on  
20 SND-14652 (sic), please, SND-11652. I will just get  
21 this pulled up on the screens, sister, because you are  
22 aware -- we talked about the belts yesterday, but you  
23 are aware a number of children have said they were  
24 struck by the nuns, that they were hit using not only  
25 hands but different implements, canes or sticks.

1           At paragraph 56 you again are talking about  
2           a specific person here. If we can just go to the bottom  
3           of that, you say that you deny that you would ever have  
4           beaten him with a cane or stick:

5           "I do not believe that I ever struck a child with  
6           a cane or stick. It is possible, although I cannot  
7           remember. There may have been incidents where a child  
8           may have been slapped on their hand or bottom and it may  
9           be possible that a ruler would have been used for that.  
10          I cannot specifically remember anything like that, but  
11          I~have to accept that it could have happened."

12          So I don't want to put words into your mouth,  
13          sister, but, as I understand it, you do believe that you  
14          may have hit a child on the hand or bottom with your own  
15          hand, but you don't -- and on occasion might have used  
16          a ruler, but beyond that you don't recall any episode of  
17          smacking a child or striking them with any other  
18          implement. Is that right?

19       **A. That is right.**

20       Q. Can I just ask, sister, you think you may have -- it may  
21       be possible that a ruler would have been used. Do you  
22       mean that you yourself would have used a ruler or maybe  
23       one of the other nuns might have used it?

24       **A. I myself may have used it.**

25       Q. Could you think of what kind of circumstances there

1 might have been that would have led you to do that?

2 **A. I just can't think, remember. I can't even say that**  
3 **I actually remember doing it. It is just that I feel**  
4 **I could have done, but I don't remember any specific**  
5 **incident.**

6 Q. Thank you, sister. Do you remember any of the other  
7 sisters maybe using something to strike a child? Did  
8 you ever see that?

9 **A. No, they did not.**

10 Q. The boys have said that the nuns were quick to lose  
11 their temper. Did you ever lose your temper with the  
12 boys?

13 **A. I can't remember any specific face -- any specific time**  
14 **that I did. I might be impatient -- I may have been**  
15 **impatient, but I wouldn't lose it that way I don't**  
16 **think.**

17 Q. What about the other sisters? Did you ever see any of  
18 them lash out verbally at the children or get very cross  
19 with them?

20 **A. Well, again working with the other sisters, except for**  
21 **SR1, she was the only one I actually worked side by side**  
22 **with. The other sisters worked -- after there I worked**  
23 **with the other sisters after the groups were divided.**  
24 **So we weren't working in the common group like I did in**  
25 **the old home.**

1 Q. So after you moved into the two groups you wouldn't  
2 really have been aware of what the other sister was  
3 doing with her children. Is that what you mean?

4 **A. No, I wouldn't.**

5 Q. One of the allegations was that boys were called names.  
6 One of the names that was complained about was that they  
7 were called an "amadan", which I understand is Irish for  
8 "fool". Do you remember anything like that happening?

9 **A. Never, never. It is something I wouldn't do to those**  
10 **children.**

11 Q. Sister, just to be clear, the next allegation, this  
12 relates both to Termonbacca and later in Nazareth House,  
13 and we have touched on this to some extent, and it is  
14 the allegation that children were force fed. You say at  
15 paragraph 60 of your statement that children would have  
16 been encouraged to eat at all times. The food --  
17 I think we read this out yesterday about food being  
18 limited in choice and children would have been  
19 encouraged at all times to eat what was put in front of  
20 them.

21 Can you help us at all with what might have happened  
22 if a child did dislike the food? Was the food just  
23 left?

24 **A. (Inaudible.) Sorry?**

25 Q. Was the food just left?

1 A. (Inaudible.) It would be left, but the thing is I can't  
2 remember a specific time. My only thoughts were with  
3 the incident with HIA130. Again he was young at that  
4 time, as I remember him, maybe 11-year-old or so or  
5 less, but I remember he had trouble in taking his  
6 medication, which he disliked, and I felt that there's  
7 a possibility that he has mixed that with the custard he  
8 said he was forced to take.

9 Q. Well, I will come back to that specific allegation in  
10 a short while, sister, but that's the only recollection  
11 that you have of any difficulty with getting a child to  
12 take anything. Is that correct?

13 A. No, because I feel -- I feel the children, they  
14 didn't -- they didn't show any resistance to eat. In  
15 fact, plates were normally cleared. I cannot remember  
16 an incident where a child was -- and it is something I  
17 would not do is to force a child to eat.

18 Q. Thank you, sister. If we could move on to bathing, and  
19 we have touched on this also, but at paragraph 67 of  
20 your statement you say you can confirm that the boys had  
21 their baths and that either yourself or SR1 would have  
22 been in the bathroom area to supervise baths times.  
23 However, the baths themselves had curtains around them  
24 to allow them some privacy and you wouldn't have been  
25 standing over the boys while they were having a bath.

1 You appreciate that is an allegation that has been made,  
2 that you would have been there while they were having a  
3 bath.

4 Some of the boys were said they were made to wear  
5 a sort of like a modesty apron or skirt. Do you recall  
6 that at all, sister?

7 **A. No. That was never used in my -- and to my knowledge it**  
8 **was never used in the house. With the younger children**  
9 **I would bath the little ones, the 4 -- 3, 4 and 5 --**  
10 **rather 4, 5 and 6, but for the older boys, they had the**  
11 **privacy of bathing themselves and drying themselves.**

12 Q. One of the things that they have complained about that  
13 also is that they were made to use the one towel. Is  
14 that correct?

15 **A. No. Each one had a separate towel.**

16 Q. Paragraph 82, if we can just go to that, which is at  
17 page SND-16... -- SND-11656. It might be easier just to  
18 scroll down to it, but ...

19 You say here that the boys were not made to stand in  
20 line naked in the bathroom waiting for their bath.  
21 Certainly that didn't happen in your group, but you  
22 cannot say what occurred because you weren't in the  
23 group of this particular boy. You did supervise bath  
24 times in another group. The boys would have come in one  
25 to one to have their baths.

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

2 Q. We did touch on this again yesterday, sister, about the  
3 bedwetting, but just to be clear, some of the boys have  
4 said that they were made to stand with wet sheets on  
5 their head. Can you comment on that?

6 **A. That certainly did not happen. To my knowledge**  
7 **definitely I never saw it or I never heard of it being**  
8 **done.**

9 Q. We again touched on this next issue yesterday also,  
10 sister, and that was the separation of families. We  
11 know that there were big changes when you moved to take  
12 family groups into the home, but I just wanted to  
13 clarify something with you about that. Boys have said  
14 that they never knew that there were brothers in  
15 Termonbacca, that they never knew that they had  
16 brothers.

17 For example, we heard from one person, HIA144, and  
18 I know you do remember him, and he told the Inquiry it  
19 was only after -- years later that he found out he had  
20 a brother in Termonbacca, that -- I believe he actually  
21 said that there, and he knew  
22 nothing about that.

23 Is there anything that you can say about that,  
24 sister?

25 **A. To be honest, it was only yesterday for the first time**



1           **that I heard that HIA144 had**

Can you say anything about whether or not brothers were  
5 encouraged to know each other in the home?

6   **A. At any time in the old -- the original group there was**  
7   **no -- there was no way that they wouldn't be aware of**  
8   **each other unless it was a smaller child that was still**  
9   **in the nursery, but eventually that child would have**  
10   **come over to the boys place and they would have known**  
11   **the he was his brother, yes.**

12   **Q.** Would the older boys have been encouraged to visit their  
13 younger siblings in the nursery?

14   **A. No, because there wasn't the facility to do that.**

15   **Q.** What about whenever a boy was moving from the nursery to  
16 the junior dorm? Would he have been introduced to his  
17 brother at that stage by the Sisters?

18   **A. If -- if they're thinking of myself, definitely**  
19   **I~would do that and I'm sure the other sisters would**  
20   **have done.**

21   **Q.** Would you have known, for example, that a boy coming out  
22 of the nursery into your junior dorm was a brother of  
23 somebody you were already looking after? Would you have  
24 known that?

25   **A. I would. I would.**

1 Q. And --

2 A. Sometimes -- sorry -- sometimes you'd have children of  
3 the same name with two families. For instance, we had,  
4 if I can use the name, families. We had two of  
5 the same name and they were similar names as well, but  
6 again I cannot remember anything in connection with  
7 those boys as regards that.

8 Q. Well, this is a sort of follow-on from that, sort of  
9 part of the same complaint about information about  
10 families, sister. Boys complain that they were given  
11 false information about their families by the nuns. For  
12 example, they were told that their mother was dead, or  
13 they were given the wrong date of birth, or some have  
14 said that later they were told by their natural mother  
15 that when she came looking for them, she was told that  
16 they had been adopted. Have you any knowledge of any of  
17 that, sister?

18 A. No. I know SR1 kept the individual files and the  
19 individual information right up -- right up until the  
20 time we moved to the temporary building. I think it was  
21 around that area that we had started the individual  
22 books which later on SND332, , took  
23 over and created files for each child and also went into  
24 the history of each boy there.

25 Q. Obviously we have seen a number of the extracts from the

1 registers about various boys and boys have challenged  
2 the details in those registers. Did you have any  
3 involvement yourself in compiling the register?

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

5 Q. Some also allege, sister, that they were treated  
6 differently, depending on their family background, for  
7 example, if they were illegitimate, or if their parents  
8 showed an interest in them, and that there was  
9 a distinction made between how the boys were treated.  
10 What can you say about that, sister?

11 **A. Definitely not. I can only assume there was more hurt**  
12 **for the individual that didn't have a mum or a relative**  
13 **coming.**

14 Q. There has also been a complaint of lack of medical  
15 attention given to the boys. I think you have mentioned  
16 before that the doctor did visit.

17 **A. Could you please repeat that?**

18 Q. Sorry, sister. Boys have complained that if they were  
19 ill or if they were hurt, that they didn't receive the  
20 proper medical attention. I think you mentioned to me  
21 certainly earlier that the doctor did come to visit  
22 Termonbacca. Is that right?

23 **A. Definitely. He came regularly to Termonbacca and the**  
24 **same in Bishop Street.**

25 Q. When you say "regularly", was that -- I mean, how often

1 would doctor have come to visit?

2 **A. Look, I can't remember the earliest date, but in Bishop**  
3 **Street if we had a sick child, they would -- we would**  
4 **send for him, but again they had their routine come, but**  
5 **I can't just say at the moment how frequent, but**  
6 **definitely they would come.**

7 Q. We know, sister, that a number of the boys -- sorry --  
8 sorry.

9 **A. Fine.**

10 Q. We're getting a bit an echo at this stage -- at this  
11 end, sister, but hopefully that will -- that will be  
12 resolved shortly.

13 Boys have kept in touch with you over the years and  
14 with a number of the sisters -- isn't that correct --  
15 and girls too I should say?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Essentially for a lot of these children the Sisters of  
18 Nazareth were the only family they knew. Isn't that  
19 correct?

20 **A. That is right, yes.**

21 Q. One of the things that some of them have said is that,  
22 in fact, even though allege that they were treated badly  
23 by you, they still considered you to be family and had  
24 no other family to turn to in times of need. Is there  
25 anything you want to say about that, sister?

1    **A. Well, I can only say from -- how I felt about those**  
2       **children. I gave as much love to each one as I did, for**  
3       **example, the love that SND76 and SND136 has displayed.**  
4       **Each one was treated with love and respect.**

5    Q. You mentioned when we were talking about two particular  
6       boys who you felt actually used up an awful lot of your  
7       energy and would have got more attention, and one of  
8       them certainly has complained about you to the Inquiry.  
9       Isn't that correct, sister?

10   **A. That's right. Again I think it's like any mother in her**  
11       **own home dealing with her children. If she has a sick**  
12       **child or a troublesome child, it is those two children**  
13       **that will demand more of her time than the children who**  
14       **are well and coping with school, etc.**

15   Q. Just -- I mean, we are not going to use the names  
16       outside here, but just so the Panel know which boys you  
17       are talking about, sister, can you give the names or  
18       would you like me to give the names of those boys?

19   **A. Would you give the names, because I am not sure who --**

20   Q. The two names that you gave to me when we spoke were  
21       SND24 and HIA94.

22   **A. Yes.**

23   Q. What you actually said to me was they sapped up whatever  
24       energy you had.

25   **A. That is right. SND24, who**

1           , and even while as a small child, I couldn't say he  
2 was a bad child. I could see no badness in the child,  
3 but he was continually -- it is so hard to explain it --  
4 but a troubled child, troubled in his own little ways,  
5 and would run into fights and that, and even after he  
6 left there was two occasions (inaudible) when I was  
7 elected that he had actually attempted to cut his throat  
8 and another time where he had cut his wrist. There was  
9 times that caused a lot of anxiety for us all. That --  
10 that was SND24.

11 Q. Those episodes were after he left your care. Is that  
12 correct?

13 A. But there wasn't any -- any episode as such while he was  
14 in the home, but I just couldn't --

15 Q. He was a worry to you?

16 A. He was always getting up -- he was worry to a certain  
17 extent, but not overly worried about him, but the  
18 demands all the time one way or another, and the same --  
19 the same with HIA94. HIA94 too was -- I would say he  
20 was a very daring boy, saw no danger. Even at school  
21 he --

22           He had put red lead into the kettle of the  
23 headmaster, and the same day he had left the school and  
24 gone down to the Bogside, got on the back of an army  
25 jeep where there was trouble at that time and took off

1 with a shield. The soldiers caught up with him and took  
2 him over to the Foyle Bleach, where they held him for  
3 some time. Eventually they demanded me to come and  
4 collect him, but I asked them to bring him back, and  
5 from there because no other school --

6  
7  
8 Q. We have heard from him and we will come back to talk  
9 about -- some more about him later.

10 If I can move on to another general complaint,  
11 sister, boys have complained that the nuns were more  
12 interested in appearances than in the boys themselves.  
13 Can you comment on that?

14 A. Again from my own experience I wanted each child to feel  
15 good about themselves, and the best way I could do it was  
16 to make sure that they didn't feel inferior among their  
17 pals when they went out to school and that they couldn't  
18 be banded as being the home boys, and in the home we did  
19 the same thing, because I have heard off older boys the  
20 likes of the postmen that came and said about the  
21 clothing they were wearing. My resolution when I went  
22 to Termonbacca and heard all that was that I made sure  
23 that no child would feel bad about themselves, and  
24 I always helped to make them feel as good and look as  
25 good as they wanted to be.

1 Q. Again another complaint from the boys, sister, is that  
2 the nuns had their favourites and one of them that they  
3 named was SND136. Is there anything -- did the nuns  
4 have favourites?

5 A. Well, as I said before, maybe yesterday, every one of  
6 the boys today that are making the complaints, they  
7 still mean as much to me as the boys like SND136 and  
8 SND76 and others. I never -- even working with them all  
9 those years I never felt any different between the  
10 children. They got --one and all got the same love and  
11 I couldn't say that I ever singled out one in any way.

12 Q. Is it --

13 A. It might be a child was ill or sickly or whatever. As  
14 I said before, they would get the attention.

15 Q. Is it possible children that -- I mean, some -- you have  
16 described challenging behaviour, if I can put it that  
17 way, on the part of two boys.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is it possible that there were other boys who didn't  
20 present you obviously with the same challenges;  
21 therefore they were easier to get along with in the  
22 home? Is that possible?

23 A. Well, again when we had the big large numbers, there was  
24 no individual attention, because we couldn't possibly do  
25 that, but when we moved to the smaller groups, that



1 would be to the temporary place, they got as much  
2 attention as they could, and then when they got our  
3 social worker and the new home going, we could give --  
4 each child got their room or whatever, which we couldn't  
5 have done before.

6 Q. We have talked about this, sister, yesterday, but just  
7 to come back to it, a big issue for the boys was the  
8 ability of ex-residents to come back into Termonbacca  
9 and the access that they had to them. Can I ask you did  
10 you ever have any concerns about the ex-residents coming  
11 back and visiting?

12 A. The ex-residents, which would be the boys that went out  
13 in my time, they would come back. It was more during  
14 the troublesome time that we -- but I did allow them in  
15 again for a game of football in the evening maybe once  
16 a week where the teachers used to come up at the school  
17 to take the boys for football as well as having a game  
18 with them. They mightn't come every night -- every  
19 evening, but they would come some evenings.

20 Q. Just in your own statement you address the issue of  
21 ex-residents at paragraph 90. You say here:

22 "I would recall an incident when the local  
23 St.~Vincent de Paul Society wanted to create a hostel  
24 for some of the older boys for when they left  
25 Termonbacca. I spoke to a representative from",

1 someone's office -- I think that might have been the  
2 bishop's office -- "as I was strongly opposed to that.  
3 My view was that if we could arrange accommodation for  
4 the boys, it should be some sort -- form of independent  
5 living arrangement to try and remove them from the  
6 institutional nature of the care environment. It was  
7 important for them to learn how to make friends and how  
8 to develop normal social friendship groups outside of  
9 the institutional environment. Unfortunately with the  
10 facilities that were available the bishop was only able  
11 to assist in providing the hostel facility that had been  
12 proposed. With the help of local priests they helped us  
13 to get in touch with local families to give a boy a home  
14 for a year or so until his 18th birthday and it also  
15 gave a young boy an experience of family life."

16 Sister, can I just pause there and ask you do you  
17 ever remember talk of a halfway house? Is that the  
18 hostel that you are talking about in that paragraph?

19 **A. It is. The St. Vincent -- a member of the St. Vincent**  
20 **de Paul -- there was both of them that told me they had**  
21 **been walking the streets looking for accommodation and**  
22 **there was nothing coming up, but they were going to ask**  
23 **the bishop to provide the hostel where they knew the**  
24 **grounds were available. I said "No". I said, "Bringing**  
25 **them into a hostel is creating a continuation of the**

1 institution", and I said, "They are now at the age where  
2 they need to create new friends, and again if -- if  
3 isolated again like the home in a hostel, they would  
4 only just have each other to confide and to talk to,  
5 which could other -- which could cause other problems in  
6 their life". I did ask (inaudible).

7 Q. So --

8 A. Yes, and I did suggest -- sorry -- I did suggest that  
9 individual -- if the priest could ask maybe at mass or  
10 somewhere, if he could ask if individual families who  
11 had their children grown up and gone out and had the  
12 spare room if they could give a child a home until they  
13 were 18, where they could be more -- more prepared to go  
14 on their own, but going out on their own into the hostel  
15 I wasn't happy.

16 Q. I am asking you specifically about that, sister, because  
17 we have received documents from the diocese which  
18 clearly minutes meetings where they raise the subject of  
19 a halfway house for Termonbacca, but it wasn't clear to  
20 the Inquiry what actually had happened about that, but  
21 if would appear from what you are telling us that you  
22 were responsible for putting the tin lid on that, as it  
23 were?

24 A. To me that was the hostel.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yes. I did -- I did ask if it could be stopped, that  
2 I~felt it wasn't going to benefit the boys.

3 Q. Then just one other thing about -- you were talking  
4 there about the boys hopefully going to families. Do  
5 you know did some of the boys go to families in the way  
6 that you had hoped would happen? Did families volunteer  
7 to take them?

8 A. These were two boys in my own group that were at the age  
9 -- they had finished school and were at the age they  
10 could move out. Yes, there was two boys that actually  
11 -- one was SND113 and the other one was HIA136.

12 HIA136, his family was a young -- a young married  
13 couple with one little baby, their first baby, and what  
14 I did ask for there -- first of all, it was the mother's  
15 parents that were going to take the boy and I felt  
16 that -- no. Sorry. It's reverse, the other way.  
17 I felt for a young married couple they needed the time  
18 to themselves, and while SND136 was -- HIA136 was at the  
19 age where he needed some interaction with the family,  
20 and I felt it was better that he didn't go to the young  
21 family, and either the girl's mother or the boy's -- the  
22 boy's -- her husband's mother took HIA136, and the other  
23 boy went to another couple where some of her boys was  
24 around. That was SND113.

25 I am sorry. Can I take a wee sip?

1 Q. Yes, of course, sister. Please do. Just wait --

2 **A. The other boy went to a family -- sorry -- the second**  
3 **boy, SND113, he went to a family where that lady's boys**  
4 **were around the same age as SND113, and both boys stayed**  
5 **in those places until they were 18 and more responsible**  
6 **for themselves.**

7 Q. Sister, we have heard -- just talking about boys going  
8 to families -- now I am not talking about when they were  
9 getting ready to leave Termonbacca, but in earlier years  
10 boys have said that they went to families for vacations,  
11 for both the long summer holiday and at Christmas maybe  
12 and at Easter.

13 Can I -- I take it that is correct, that they did do  
14 that, but I was wondering how those families were  
15 chosen, how that came about. What can you tell us about  
16 that?

17 **A. They would be recommended. They would possibly be**  
18 **rec... -- I am not quite sure now how, but that they**  
19 **would approach Nazareth, approach the Sisters and offer**  
20 **to take a child, but again we had the opportunity of**  
21 **checking out with maybe the parish priest or with**  
22 **somebody anyway so to make sure the family were a family**  
23 **known to them.**

24 Q. So the check which you -- if a family came to the  
25 Sisters and said, "Look, we would love to help out here

1 by taking some of your boys over the summer holidays",  
2 for example, the Sisters would have checked on their  
3 bona fides, as it were?

4 **A. We wouldn't commit ourselves just immediately and we**  
5 **would see how -- we would get back to them or something**  
6 **like that --**

7 Q. And did you --

8 **A. -- because there would be -- sorry.**

9 Q. Sorry. I interrupted you, sister. You were -- well,  
10 did you -- what -- you said you would get back to them.  
11 What steps did you then take to check out that this was  
12 an appropriate place to send the boys to?

13 **A. Well, at that stage it was the only way we had of**  
14 **checking out anything, but in later times when we had**  
15 **children under the Social Services, the social worker**  
16 **would be the one to investigate the family and again**  
17 **check if the child was happy. Again we would know**  
18 **ourselves when the child returned if they were happy**  
19 **there, or if the next week if they were anxious about**  
20 **going out, you would ask questions but there was always**  
21 **the general feeling you watched the child and look out**  
22 **for the actions as well.**

23 Q. And if a child came back and appeared to be unhappy,  
24 what did you do, sister?

25 **A. Then again I can't remember of any specific incident**

1 that happened, but we would give the child -- this is  
2 probably what we would do: try and find out from the  
3 child if there was something. Like in other occasions,  
4 not dealing with any of the specific children, it might  
5 be much later where children went out at the weekends  
6 and would return on Saturday morning rather than Sunday  
7 evening. We recognised that there was something wrong  
8 there and we got in touch with the social worker. That  
9 was completely off of what I was saying, but it was  
10 an example.

11 Q. Sister, there's -- I'm going -- that's the general  
12 issues that I wanted to raise with you. I am going to  
13 move on shortly to deal with specific matters, but I am  
14 going to take a break and allow the Panel to ask you  
15 questions, but before I do that, I am just going to deal  
16 with one specific allegation that has been made by  
17 a number of boys about you, and that is to the effect  
18 that you were particularly close to a male  
19 , and you and I have discussed this and you  
20 know about whom I am speaking. I just want to confirm  
21 you deny any inappropriate relationship with that  
22 person. Isn't that correct?

23 A. That's right.

and like the likes of  
25 SND76 and SND136, he had close relationships with not





1 (10.40 am)

2 (Short break)

3 (10.55 am)

4 MS SMITH: Now, sister, can I just confirm that you can hear  
5 us okay?

6 **A. Yes, Christine.**

7 Q. That's great. The Panel Members have some questions for  
8 you, sister.

9 **A. Okay. Thank you.**

10 CHAIRMAN: I think we will leave them to later.

11 MS SMITH: It turns out they don't. They going to ask you  
12 at the end.

13 Sister, I was just going on to talk about specific  
14 allegations then that had been made by a number of  
15 different boys. Now I am going to use their names, but  
16 again their names can't be used outside the Inquiry, and  
17 I am going to take them in order and just summarise,  
18 first of all, the allegations that they make and  
19 specifically where that refers to you, and where you  
20 have dealt with those allegations in your statement we  
21 will look at that, and if there's anything else that  
22 they said when they came to the Inquiry to give  
23 evidence, I will let you know what they said so that you  
24 can comment on it. All right?

25 **A. Thank you. Thank you.**

1 Q. The first one -- the first I am going to deal with is  
2 a boy called HIA67. You remember HIA67, sister. Is  
3 that correct?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. His refer... -- his designation is "HIA67", and his  
6 statement can be found in bundle CLO-279291 (sic). I am  
7 not going to ask for any of these to be pulled up.  
8 I will just summarise what was in their statements.

9 He said that you were in charge of the  
10 , which was correct. What he does say is that  
11 he was beaten with a belt on the back of his legs,  
12 thighs and backside and that he was pulled by his ears.

13 He also said that there was an underwear inspection  
14 carried out, and if the underwear was dirty, he was hit  
15 with the belt.

16 He said that on his birthday he was given a fry. He  
17 had to ask you what the fry was for, as he didn't even  
18 know it was his birthday.

19 Then there was a conversation which he said that he  
20 had with you about SAVIA, which is the organisation that  
21 is representing a number of the people who have  
22 complained to the Inquiry, and I then when I was taking  
23 him through his evidence put your version of that  
24 conversation to him, and he said in the transcript,  
25 which we can look at, which is SND-17321 to SND-17322 --



1           ..."

2           Sorry. I am reading from the transcript, sister,  
3           but what it -- I then did was relate what you had said  
4           that HIA67 told you, and that was that HIA151 indicated  
5           to HIA67 that if he came forward with his story, the  
6           least he may get would be about £10,000. HIA67 had been  
7           in contact -- HIA151 had been in contact with a number  
8           of former residents encouraging them to come forward and  
9           tell their stories.

10          Then I asked HIA67 what his account of that  
11          conversation that he had with you was. He said:

12                 "That was never mentioned. There was never no  
13                 mention of money. It was the other way around. She  
14                 said to me about the SAVIA and HIA151: "What do you  
15                 think of this carrying on going on with HIA151 and  
16                 SAVIA", and then I said -- what I said to her then,  
17                 there was never no mention of -- that's the first I've  
18                 heard of money or anything being mentioned. The only  
19                 dealings I had with HIA151 was when he approached me a  
20                 couple of years back to say that he was trying to gather  
21                 up boys that had been in -- ex-Termonbacca boys to say  
22                 that this may be coming up, you know. They were getting  
23                 -- setting up a thing. Myself and the other boys didn't  
24                 want nothing to do with it, but there was never, never,  
25                 ever money mentioned."



1 write his story and at least they would get £1,000 --  
2 £10,000 each. Then he went on to say, "Sister, it is  
3 not the nuns that are to blame; it's the old boys that  
4 have abused others". That was his words, and at that --  
5 at that stage we stopped the conversation and finished  
6 talking and hung up.

7 Q. Sister, he does say -- and the transcript of what he  
8 says can be found in the bundle at SND-17299. I put to  
9 him the elements of your statement where you address his  
10 allegations --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- and he said that he thought the nuns knew that the  
13 abuse in the dormitories was going on, because you could  
14 hear a fly going up the wall, that the partition between  
15 your cell and the dormitory was so light, but he  
16 accepted that possibly you wouldn't have known what the  
17 older boys were doing, but basically what he was saying  
18 was that he felt you must have known there was something  
19 going on in the dormitory. You mightn't have known  
20 what, but you must have known there was something going  
21 on because of the noise.

22 **A. Another thing is I am sure whatever they did in the**  
23 **line of abuse to each other that there's no way they**  
24 **would do it in the middle of the dormitory in front of**  
25 **other boys. It would be done secretly, secretly,**

1           **secretly.**

2    Q.   He said that he never saw you in the dormitory at  
3           night-time. Did you ever leave your cell and go into  
4           the dormitory at night-time?

5    A.   Well, I was sleeping in the               dormitory and to come  
6           out of my cell I had to walk through the dormitory. My  
7           normal thing would be to check if the children were  
8           awake or asleep.

9    Q.   Is that when you were on your way to your cell you would  
10           have walked through?

11   A.   No. Yes, but at night at a certain time I'd get the  
12           little ones up for the toilet, the ones who wet their  
13           beds, before settling down for the night, yes. I would  
14           be in the dormitory with them, yes.

15   Q.   Sorry, sister. Maybe I am not being clear, but after  
16           you yourself had retired for the night did you get up  
17           and go and check on the boys at any time during the  
18           night?

19   A.   If a child was sick I would, but otherwise the children  
20           slept soundly, but if they needed the toilet, you might  
21           hear a wee cry or wee disturbance and I would get up  
22           and get them to the toilet.

23           But regarding -- sorry -- can I say regarding HIA67  
24           I got a letter from HIA67 last year -- some time -- I~am  
25           not sure now what year I~am on. I am on 14 now. I~am

1 almost sure it was last year or the year before, but it  
2 was certainly after the conversation I had with HIA67,  
3 where he wrote a nice letter, which I have handed in to  
4 the Inquiry --

5 Q. That's correct.

6 A. -- saying at the very end he was grateful to me for what  
7 I did for him, for caring for him and for helping him to  
8 have a good start in life.

9 Q. Certainly, sister, the Inquiry have seen that letter and  
10 I put it to HIA67 when he was giving his evidence. What  
11 he said about that was he didn't deny that he had  
12 written it. He had no memory of having written it, but  
13 what he said was at the time he was in the midst of his  
14 grief about and he really has no  
15 recollection of what he was writing to anybody at the  
16 time. That's effectively what he has told us about  
17 that, sister, but he does accept that he did write to  
18 you and did write in those terms.

19 One other thing, sister, just before we finish off  
20 from HIA67. He said that in your statement you had said  
21 that the boys were never allowed in the kitchen, but is  
22 it correct that the boys -- that there was a shack off  
23 the main kitchen which was used for peeling potatoes?  
24 Is that right?

25 A. That's right, a kind of a scullery, yes.



1 Q. And the boys would be sent there to do that maybe as  
2 a punishment. They had to go and help out with the  
3 potatoes. Is that possible?

4 **A. No. Boys were not allowed to the kitchen. HIA144**  
5 **worked there and also** ,  
6 **,** but they were the two  
7 **people that I remember working in the kitchen.**

8 Q. What I am asking, sister, is would the boys have been  
9 sent to help out either HIA144 or by peeling  
10 potatoes at any stage?

11 **A. HIA144 and but not -- I have no knowledge of HIA76**  
12 **and the other boys being sent to peel the potatoes.**  
13 **Those two older boys were the boys that worked in the**  
14 **kitchen to my knowledge.**

15 Q. Okay. Thank you. The next person I am going to move on  
16 to, sister, is "HIA11", and that's HIA11. Now he made  
17 a number of allegations about being beaten by civilian  
18 staff, by being sexually assaulted by older boys, by  
19 bullying, physical abuse by the ex-residents and farm  
20 workers and we have already talked about the priest he  
21 complained about.

22 He said that there was physical abuse by nuns, and  
23 that while SR1 would have used her hands, he complains  
24 about being hit by you, and that you used your belt, and  
25 that you also used the kettle flex. He talks about

1 a particular incident where he was beaten because he had  
2 taken a lemonade bottle off a highjacked lorry.

3 First of all, sister, you address in your statement  
4 at paragraphs 47 to 55 the allegations that he makes and  
5 you say that you remember him very fondly. You can't  
6 understand why he made these allegations against you,  
7 and you deny the allegation that you hit him with  
8 a kettle flex.

9 Just to be clear, sister, I think we have  
10 established from other sisters and from yourself when  
11 you were in the old building before the -- you moved to  
12 the temporary accommodation, there was a tea urn. Isn't  
13 that correct?

14 **A. A tea urn that used to come up from the kitchen with the**  
15 **tea made, already made.**

16 Q. But once you moved into the temporary accommodation  
17 there was a kettle present there. Isn't that so?

18 **A. Yes, there was, yes.**

19 Q. Just is there anything that you want to say about those  
20 allegations of HIA11 at this point, sister?

21 **A. Well, I have heard of the allegations and I've went**  
22 **through them, but definitely there is no truth in what**  
23 **he is saying.**

24 Q. He said also that -- he talked -- when he gave evidence  
25 to us, he talked about children kneeling in front of the

1 nuns to say their morning prayers. Did that happen,  
2 sister?

3 **A. Children did kneel by their bedside facing their bed to**  
4 **say a short morning prayer. That is correct.**

5 Q. But they wouldn't -- they wouldn't have been in a row or  
6 in a semicircle in front of yourself --

7 **A. No, no.**

8 Q. -- to say their prayers, anything like that?

9 **A. No, no. They'd lean on their own bed.**

10 Q. You talked -- he gave an account of being abused in the  
11 laundry. It is correct that there were other boys who  
12 helped out in the laundry. Isn't that so?

13 **A. Yes, but HIA11 was one of the boys that was never in**  
14 **the -- never came -- been allowed into the laundry.**

15 Q. You talked about the --

16 **A. He also --**

17 Q. Sorry, sister.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. He talked about the soap powder being kept in a chest in  
20 the laundry. Is that correct?

21 **A. That is correct, in a cupboard, but the cupboard wasn't**  
22 **locked, because we -- we used this soap powder. It came**  
23 **in a bag and we put it in a chest in the laundry, yes.**

24 Q. Sorry. Was there something else you wanted to say about  
25 HIA11 there before I interrupted you, sister?

1    **A. I think you had mentioned as well that he was locked in**  
2       **that -- put into that cupboard. There was no -- there**  
3       **was a lock on the cupboard but there was no key to the**  
4       **cupboard, but the cupboard was just bursting.**

5    Q. One of the other things he said was that he -- the nuns  
6       would threaten that **SND 483** from the Welfare would  
7       come and take them away to Belfast. You obviously  
8       remember **SND 483** We talked about her yesterday. Is  
9       it possible that this might have been used as a threat  
10      to the boys?

11   **A. That definitely was never used, because I had even**  
12      **difficulty in bringing her name up when I was asked**  
13      **about the early stages when -- because there was another**  
14      **SND 483 from the Welfare, but there is no way -- I**  
15      **don't think HIA11 was even involved with her. There was**  
16      **only a small number of boys under SND 483**

17    Q. No. What I was asking --

18    **A. There is no way they would have been -- sorry. Yes.**

19    Q. There was --

20    **A. There was no way that they would be threatened.**

21    Q. Then a third person, sister, is HIA13, who is  
22       "HIA13". He said that you beat him and you would hit  
23       him over the head or a slap. He also had beatings from  
24       SR1. He complains of sexual abuse and bullying by the  
25       older boys.

1           You in your statement which we have already been  
2           looking at at paragraphs 56 and 57 accept that you may  
3           have slapped a child on the hand or bottom or used  
4           a ruler, but you can't remember specifically, and you  
5           talked in that statement -- in your statement about the  
6           fact that he had attended a mass for the closure of  
7           Termonbacca and you didn't have the opportunity to speak  
8           to him at that mass. He was quite adamant when he spoke  
9           to us, sister, in very strong terms that he was not at  
10          that mass. What he says can be found in the transcript  
11          at SND-17269 and 17270. I don't believe I need to read  
12          that out, sister, but essentially he was quite adamant  
13          that you were wrong, that he hadn't been -- the only  
14          time he went to mass was for funerals or weddings and he  
15          certainly wouldn't have been there, that you couldn't  
16          have talked to him because he wasn't there.

17   **A. He was one of the boys that turned up -- that came with**  
18   **the older boys. Nobody was invited individually. Those**  
19   **who turned up for the mass were teachers and different**  
20   **ones that had worked in the house, Social Services,**  
21   **other people, but definitely HIA13 was at the mass,**  
22   **because he came in as well for the cup of tea after with**  
23   **everybody else, and he approached me. You know, he**  
24   **wanted to talk to me. This was mass at 7.30 or**  
25   **8 o'clock. The dining hall was full of people at that**

1 stage, and I would have been going to the  
2 next morning or whatever, but I said, HIA 13 -- HIA13,  
3 I~am sorry, but I have no time to talk to you now.  
4 There are too many about" and, as I said, unfortunately  
5 I didn't get the opportunity again, but HIA13 had come  
6 up regularly

and he would always come and greet me. There  
8 was never any indication that there was any animosity  
9 between us.

10 Likewise the other boys who made the allegations,  
11 I saw them the night before. They were -- I was invited  
12 by them out for a meal just -- just before I went to  
13 , and HIA13 was one of them.

14 Q. Sister, moving on then to HIA125, which is "HIA125", he  
15 complains about being beaten with a sally rod type  
16 stick. He said that you hid that in the plastic garter  
17 on your sleeve when St. Vincent de Paul came.

18 If we can just look at the transcript at SND-17363,  
19 he gave us a bit more detail about this when he spoke to  
20 the Inquiry. He said just at the bottom of that  
21 page just there:

22 "'She had white elastic garters on her arms which  
23 she used when cleaning and she hid the stick up her  
24 sleeve with the garter.'

25 Answer: That's correct. When I says cleaning,

1 nuns didn't clean. Basically that -- them garters went  
2 from your wrist to your forearm, and it was to keep her  
3 white gown, whatever, clean. So if somebody comes, you  
4 take it off, because -- as you have seen from the  
5 photos, the place wasn't very clean. It was an old tin  
6 hut. They want to be clean and immaculate and what have  
7 you. So that's what they -- anyway the garter was  
8 there. She was hitting us and next thing visitors come  
9 in. She stuck the stick, the sally rod, up her sleeve,  
10 the same sleeve she was shaking hands with them. I was  
11 waiting to see if the stick would fall out, but it  
12 didn't. They were asking, 'Why are they crying?' 'Oh,  
13 they are all scared. They are scared, like.' After  
14 they went out came the sally rod again."

15 He complains -- he makes other complaints, but he  
16 again complained that you inspected the children's  
17 underpants, and he talks about you sewing up the hands  
18 in the pockets -- sorry -- sewing the pockets up because  
19 they -- boys were putting their hands in their pockets.

20 You in your statement deal with his allegations at  
21 paragraphs 80 to 83. You say that you vaguely remember  
22 him. He was an older boy and you say he wasn't in your  
23 group. Is that right, sister? You don't have a great  
24 memory of HIA125.

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

1 Q. Isn't that so?

2 **A. No, no, no, but I know he was there.**

3 Q. The next person --

4 **A. I had very little interaction with him.**

5 Q. The next person would be HIA130, and I know he was in  
6 your group, and we have talked about how you kept  
7 a little notebook on him. He is "HIA30" (sic). He  
8 talks about the older boys and ex-residents and the lack  
9 of supervision and the physical and sexual abuse.

10 He also talked about the nuns belittling children  
11 and he said that he was threatened with Muckamore. Did  
12 the nuns ever threaten to send boys to Muckamore if they  
13 didn't behave?

14 **A. Not to my knowledge, and it is something I would never  
15 do and did not do.**

16 Q. There were some boys who did transfer from Termonbacca  
17 to Muckamore. Was that during your time?

18 **A. That was -- it was in the early stages and he did go to  
19 Muckamore -- Muckamore, but he was the only one that  
20 I~have knowledge of.**

21 Q. That --

22 **A. His name was SND3. Sorry.**

23 Q. SND3?

24 **A. He was the -- SND3, yes.**

25 Q. Can -- well, do you recollect why he went to Muckamore?







1 given such medication?

2 **A. No, no.**

3 Q. We have heard complaints that the nuns might have  
4 drugged some of the boys. You are not aware of SR1  
5 giving it to anyone other than these two?

6 **A. No, only -- and again it was a small bottle that came  
7 for the two boys. So I don't think it would go round  
8 a third or a fourth child.**

9 Q. He also alleges, coming back to HIA130's allegations,  
10 that you beat him for going to the toilet during rosary.  
11 What he said about that was that, you know, he was -- he  
12 didn't like the rosary and he was basically crying off  
13 it and pretending to need to go to the toilet. You  
14 followed him one time and beat him for doing that.

15 He also said that you beat him with the flex of  
16 a kettle after a trip to Carrowmena, and he says that  
17 you beat him because you felt that he was pretending to  
18 be sick on an occasion.

19 He describes in paragraph 16 of his statement, which  
20 I will not go into, but at the age of 14 he actually  
21 fought back, and he gives a description of how there was  
22 a struggle between you and him, which -- ultimately he  
23 disarmed you when you had a pair of scissors and were  
24 about to attack him with the scissors, and that that was  
25 the last time you ever beat him, and he said despite all

1 of this, he still liked you.

2 He also gave evidence about the underwear inspection  
3 that he said that you engaged in, and he said that -- he  
4 does say that he was sedated with medication by SR1 and  
5 you aged 7 and that there were other boys who got the  
6 same medication.

7 You deal with HIA130's allegations in your statement  
8 at paragraphs 59 to 65. Just -- I am not going to go  
9 into what he said in evidence, because a lot of it was  
10 simply what he had said in his statement in a little bit  
11 more detail, but what he did say to you -- what he did  
12 say when I --

which I put to him.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. I asked him about that, and that extract from the  
16 transcript is found at SND-17387. I am not again going  
17 to go into it.

he felt that there were good people, the  
19 good people of Derry who looked after -- who did what  
20 they could to help out with Termonbacca, but he said  
21 that he specifically excluded you as someone who was  
22 good to him, that you are not named

23 , and he said that that made you  
24 angry, that you hadn't included him in that (sic).

25 **A. He referred to the staff and people of Derry and he also**

1           **referred to the sisters who cared for him --**

2    Q.   Yes.

3    **A.   -- and he did not -- he did not name any particular**  
4           **sisters.**

5    Q.   That's correct.  He said:

6            "You do not see ..."

7            Just this is what he said:

8            "The people who were good to me I have named.  You  
9    do not see SR2 as a person I named.  In general I thank  
10   the nuns for giving up their lives, because it is not  
11   an easy task to, you know -- and recognise that some of  
12   them would have gone in there maybe with the best  
13   intentions and over time through frustration they became  
14   corrupted now, but generally what this is about is to  
15   say, you know", if you scroll down, "that it wasn't all  
16   a nightmare either.  Like what you've heard me say so  
17   far today is generally about one woman who was very  
18   cruel to me and she gets no recognition in that letter,  
19   but there's other people who were very good to me and  
20   I~wanted to name as people who were good to me."

21           So he is essentially saying that he is making  
22   a distinction between what he describes as you being  
23   cruel to him and the people who were good to him.  I am  
24   offering you opportunity to say what you want to us  
25   about that, sister.

1    **A.**  I feel that -- yes, I know HIA130 sent in a lovely  
2       letter.  There was nothing to indicate that I in  
3       particular was the one he didn't like, the one -- that  
4       I~abused him or whatever, but definitely we were amazed  
5       when we saw the letter, and I think his denial of it,  
6       including myself, I just don't know what his reasons for  
7       that is.

8    **Q.**  Sister, I am going to go on to someone who you don't  
9       actually deal with in your statement.  I am not quite  
10      sure why that is it.  It might have just been missed.

11   **A.**  **Yes.**

12   **Q.**  But I am going to spend a little time then with his  
13      allegations and allow you to respond to them, since you  
14      haven't dealt with them in your statement.  That's  
15      HIA157 --

16   **A.**  **Yes.**

17   **Q.**  -- who is "HIA157".

18   **A.**  **Yes.**

19   **Q.**  When we spoke earlier --

20   **A.**  **Yes.**

21   **Q.**  -- you did say that you did remember him.  Isn't that  
22      correct?

23   **A.**  **That's correct.**

24   **Q.**  Do you need a drink there, sister?

25   **A.**  **I'm fine.  Thank you.  I'm fine.**

1 Q. He -- I am not going to -- his statement can be found at  
2 SND-1536 to SND-1542. I will just go through this in  
3 summary form, but at paragraph 6 he alleges that he was  
4 beaten for not sleeping. Were children beaten -- beaten  
5 by anyone for not going to sleep?

6 **A. Not -- not that I know of. If they wouldn't go to**  
7 **sleep, they wouldn't -- they couldn't go to sleep until,**  
8 **you know, they were ready to sleep, but I have no**  
9 **knowledge of that.**

10 Q. At paragraph 9 of his statement he relates an occasion  
11 when some boy attempted to sexually abuse him, interfere  
12 with him, and he said he went to you and told you that  
13 that boy had asked him to do dirty things, and he said  
14 that as a result the boy was made to mop floors. Now  
15 can I ask you what you want to tell us about that,  
16 sister?

17 **A. I have no -- I never heard that and he did not come to**  
18 **me and I did not experience that really happening.**

19 Q. Another allegation he makes is about paragraph 12. He  
20 said that he -- you were in Carrowmena I think,  
21 certainly on a trip away --

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

23 Q. -- and he fell in cow dung, and as a result you refused  
24 to let him get back into the minibus, and drove off  
25 leaving him outside, and he had to walk back and didn't

1 know where he was, and it took him some time to get back  
2 to where you were all staying. I wonder what you want  
3 to say to us about that, sister.

4 **A. Well, to begin with, we would have been at the seaside**  
5 **and there were no cows around that area where we played**  
6 **or whatever, and I have no -- I did not -- I did not**  
7 **refuse to take him into the bus, because there's no way**  
8 **I would drive away and leave a child behind. Our big**  
9 **worry was to make sure and count and recount to make**  
10 **sure the children were in.**

11 Q. He also said -- one of the things that I have raised  
12 with you -- that the nuns had favourites and he wasn't  
13 one of them. I think you have addressed the issue of  
14 boys having favourites, sister, but he said that as  
15 a punishment he was made to kneel outside -- I think it  
16 was outside -- the cell, but -- yes, outside a nun's  
17 cell as punishment for a considerable period of time.  
18 I just wondered, sister, what you wanted to say about  
19 that.

20 **A. If it was in the old building, he would have been**  
21 **sleeping in SR1's -- in the dormitory supervised by SR1.**  
22 **I wouldn't have been there.**

23 Q. Just to be clear -- I had better clear this up, sister,  
24 because what he said was:

25 "SR2 and SR1 had their favourites and I wasn't one



1 of them. I used to hear laughter coming from the nun's  
2 cell when she had her favourites in at night."

3 Did you have some of the boys in your cell at night,  
4 sister?

5 **A. No, no. The -- our cells were private and there's no**  
6 **way the children would be in at night.**

7 Q. What about during the day? Did you allow them in during  
8 the day to your cell?

9 **A. No, because it was one of -- it was one of our customs**  
10 **that the cell was a private area, like this question**  
11 **yesterday about the dining room. It was part of our**  
12 **procedure. The Sisters only went to the dining room.**

13 Q. And -- but was it a punishment to make a child kneel  
14 outside the cell? Is that --

15 **A. No, definitely not.**

16 Q. He also complained that there was no preparation for him  
17 leaving Termonbacca. What he says about that in  
18 paragraph 15 is that -- 16 -- sorry -- is that you -- he  
19 was driven in a minibus by you to a home for the elderly  
20 on the in Belfast. Have you a recollection  
21 of that, sister?

22 **A. I remember bringing him up, but again it would have been**  
23 **SR1 that helped him to get the placement there. He went**  
24 **to help in the elderly unit in the**

25 Q. I think we talked about -- earlier you mentioned that

1 when you got the minibus -- and you think that was about  
2 the time that you moved into temporary accommodation.

3 Is that right or was it later?

4 **A. Yes, because the new building was going up at the time.**

5 Q. And so that might have been some time between  
6 or thereabouts?

7 **A. ?**

8 Q. you move back into the new building.

9 **A. Yes. I think to , thereabouts.**

10 Q. You drove the minibus, sister. Is that right?

11 **A. I did, yes.**

12 Q. When can I ask did you pass your driving test?

13 **A. Believe it or not, I passed it the first time.**

14 **I can't -- it would be -- it would be round the late**  
15 **'60s I think.**

16 Q. What was -- was the minibus used for the day trips and  
17 things or what was it used for?

18 **A. The minibus was used to take the senior boys to school**  
19 **every morning -- sorry -- the junior boys to school**  
20 **every morning, and for outings and that, and again for**  
21 **holiday time, and for various things if they were -- if**  
22 **they were to go somewhere, you know.**

23 Q. Just -- we have heard different people were bussed to  
24 school and other people talk about walking to school and  
25 that SND15 would have walked them down to school. Was

1 that before you got the minibus?

2 **A. No, that was really long before even SR1 went there, but**  
3 **our own -- at the beginning when I was there it would be**  
4 **one or two of the nursery -- the girls worked in the**  
5 **nursery, because at that stage we had no -- we had no**  
6 **staff, but eventually the St. Vincent de Paul hired**  
7 **a bus or arranged for a bus for to take the juniors to**  
8 **school, because there was such a number of them, but the**  
9 **senior boys walked to the Creggan and to the Christian**  
10 **Brothers School.**

11 Q. Now you say -- you also -- this is again just going over  
12 what HIA 157 said, and he said that he saw others being  
13 beaten by SR1 and that the leather belt was used. Did  
14 you ever see SR1 ever hit anybody with her belt?

15 **A. No, definitely not.**

16 Q. Another complaint that he makes -- and again this  
17 relates back to the families that they came from -- he  
18 said that there was a letter from his sister dated  
19 which he never received. This was -- he went in  
20 along to Termonbacca and asked for any information or  
21 documentation belonging to him, and at that stage he was  
22 given a letter from his sister, which was dated ,  
23 and he never got that in , sister. Can you assist  
24 the --

25 **A. (Inaudible).**

1 Q. Sorry. Can you assist the Inquiry with what --

2 **A. I can't say --**

3 Q. I beg your pardon. I was just going to ask you, sister,  
4 whether you could assist us with what information boys  
5 were given about their families and how that -- who they  
6 got that information.

7 **A. Number one, SR1 would have dealt with him, but again**  
8 **letters coming in, I never remember a letter coming in**  
9 **for that -- that period before being moved up. Even**  
10 **when we moved up to the temp buildings, I cannot, but**  
11 **certainly if letters came in my own time and I know SR1**  
12 **would give out the letters as well, but they were far**  
13 **and few apart, if any did come.**

14 Q. He also talks that -- he was given his birth certificate  
15 and shown an empty file. There were no other documents  
16 in his file. When he asked about why he wasn't given  
17 the letter, he was told he didn't need to know.

18 **A. I have knowledge of that.**

19 Q. He says that some years later he was told by an  
20 ex-resident that SND15 had discovered two boys, SND65  
21 and SND122, burning personal letters, photos and  
22 documents belonging to the boys. This comes back to the  
23 record-keeping. Is it possible that when Termonbacca  
24 closed that some material was destroyed, sister?

25 **A. No, I have no experience of it. I have heard boys**

1        **saying at a later stage that this did happen and that**  
2        **the two boys named was SND122 and SND65, but I have no**  
3        **experience of it and I heard nothing with it otherwise.**

4    Q.    That, sister, concludes HIA157's. I am going to deal  
5        with -- if you are -- if you are quite happy to  
6        continue, I propose to deal with one more boy and then  
7        we will take a short break, if that's fine?

8    **A.    That's fine. That's fine. Thank you.**

9    Q.    The next person I am going to deal with then, sister, is  
10       HIA94. We have heard his name before. He is HIA 94

11                Now he says, sister, that you beat him and that  
12       he has scars in the head as a result of the beatings  
13       that he received to the top of his head. I should say  
14       to you, and you know this from speaking to me earlier,  
15       that the Inquiry has seen a statement of a Janet  
16       Hall which is dated 27th April 2011. That doctor  
17       examined HIA94 at the request of police, and she  
18       recorded "old, small, white, silvery scars", and when  
19       I was with you earlier, I showed you will the body chart  
20       where those are marked on the top of his head, and I  
21       just wonder what you want to say about that, sister.  
22       First of all, were you responsible for those scars on  
23       his head?

24    **A.    No, and as well as that I wasn't even aware that they**  
25       **had happened.**

1 Q. I think one of the things you said to me was the fact  
2 and we know that HIA94 spent time in other institutions,  
3 and while you are not actually blaming anyone there, but  
4 you just simply deny any responsibility for the scars.  
5 Isn't that correct?

6 A. I do, because HIA94 had to be changed from St. Patrick's  
7 Training School till I think was it and then  
8 to -- oh!

9 Q. Well, he went to I think at some point as  
10 well.

11 A. , and the reason why they moved him each time,  
12 they couldn't control him. So eventually n  
13 wrote and asked if we could get him out, could somebody  
14 get him out, which I did. I got -- the St. Vincent de  
15 Paul got him a caravan after a couple had agreed to take  
16 him, but I said that it wouldn't be good for their  
17 family for HIA94 to be in the same house, and so with  
18 that I asked for the caravan to be bought for him so  
19 that they could supervise him as best they could for --  
20 until he was 18. He had -- he could go in for his  
21 meals, but he would have his own space and the family  
22 would have their space.

23 Q. Just one other incident. He talked about you  
24 humiliating him and another boy by making them wear  
25 skirts and he said that they had been sliding down

1 a bank and they had damaged their clothing, and when he  
2 spoke to us in evidence he said that you said to him,  
3 "You will not slide down again. You will cut the ass of  
4 yourself". What do you remember about that incident,  
5 sister?

6 **A. I have no memory of saying that, but I have a memory of**  
7 **HIA94 coming up one day to me and he said, "Sister, can**  
8 **you put a skirt on me?" I said, "What do you want**  
9 **a skirt for? Only girls wear skirts", and he said,**  
10 **"Oh!" He said, "Going down the banking, I can slide**  
11 **down and the skirt would fly back and I wouldn't hurt",**  
12 **but I said, "Wouldn't that be worse and your bottom**  
13 **would be hurt?"**

14 **Q.** He also talks about being scapegoated by the nuns for  
15 things. You have described that his behaviour was  
16 challenging and that he was -- I don't want to be put  
17 the word "difficult", but certainly he was presenting as  
18 a challenging child, and he feels that he was  
19 scapegoated for a lot of things in the home -- would  
20 that be fair, sister -- because he was a challenging  
21 child?

22 **A. No. HIA94 I think got away with a lot because he was so**  
23 **demanding, but I have a record -- and SND194 will be**  
24 **able to confirm that -- she worked with me -- one day he**  
25 **went to throw a knife at another child. SND194 grabbed**

1 the knife and got her -- her finger cut and the marks of  
2 the cut is still there. HIA94 was unpredictable. You  
3 couldn't just know what he was going to do next --

4 Q. You say --

5 A. -- and that's with all due respect for him.

6 Q. Sorry, sister.

7 A. That is with all due respect, yes.

8 Q. In your statement at paragraphs 74 to 79 you deal with  
9 the allegations that HIA94 makes and you said that you  
10 were surprised by the allegation against you, because  
11 you said it wasn't the first time that he had made it.  
12 You said that he visited you in hospital. In evidence  
13 he said he doesn't remember that at all, but he does  
14 remember going to see you in . He  
15 said that he -- sorry. Just I will come back to what he  
16 said in the transcript about that, but one of the things  
17 that -- the Inquiry received a number of documents which  
18 appear to show that he wrote to you from other  
19 institutions and that you visited him. Did you visit  
20 him at all, sister?

21 A. I did. I visited him in St. Patrick's and and  
22 I visited

23 Q. That's

24 A. . Yes, I did.

25 Q. We have seen a number of letters, and I showed these to



1       you earlier, where he says things like Termonbacca is  
2       the best home he was in. He was asking you for  
3       photographs. He sent hankies he made. He named boys he  
4       liked best in Termonbacca. Now he has no recollection  
5       of writing those letters to you, and, in fact, when  
6       I showed them to you, you were astonished to hear that  
7       he wrote to you, because you never received any letters  
8       or any gifts from him of handkerchiefs.

9       **A. That's right.**

10      Q. Isn't that correct?

11      **A. That's correct.**

12      Q. What you said to me was he couldn't write, although we  
13      in discussion agreed someone could have written the  
14      letter for him --

15      **A. Yes.**

16      Q. -- but you have no memory at all of ever receiving  
17      anything from him by way of letter?

18      **A. No, definitely. No, there was nothing.**

19      Q. He said -- he appears to have sent hankies to you and  
20      you were asked to send soap and a lighter. Did you ever  
21      send parcels to him? Can you remember doing that?

22      **A. Any time I visited I always took him fruit and biscuits.**  
23      **They'd be fruit and biscuits. They were only allowed so**  
24      **much.**

25      Q. So what about soap or lighters?

1 **A. No, I was never -- no, that was never asked for, because**  
2 **I knew it wouldn't be allowed in.**

3 Q. The one letter you do recall is that there was -- a head  
4 man wrote to you seeking help for him. Isn't this -- is  
5 this whenever you arranged --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- for St. Vincent de Paul to find a home for him?

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

9 Q. There would appear to have been other letters, sister,  
10 and I can't quite -- I think it might be SND-1925, if we  
11 could just have a look at that, but certainly there is  
12 a letter in the bundle which was written by someone  
13 formally to you. It wasn't HIA94 himself, but you were  
14 being written to by one of the officials in one of the  
15 institutions he was in, and they were asking you to  
16 bring more handkerchiefs for him. It would appear that  
17 the handkerchiefs was embroidered by him in the  
18 institution he was in. You don't even remember  
19 receiving that letter. Isn't that correct?

20 **A. No, I don't -- I can't remember, no.**

21 Q. We would appear to have received these from the  
22 Department of Justice. The Inquiry in due course will  
23 look into this, but if I can just call up this letter,  
24 and I showed it to you. It is SND-1924. If that could  
25 be put up on the screen, please. This is a letter dated



1    **A. That's right.**

2    Q. You say that you are amazed that he feels you blamed him  
3       for everything, that he twisted you round your finger --  
4       his -- twisted you round his finger, and you recount  
5       an incident when he ran away from the Brothers and you  
6       also talk about later helping -- getting St. Vincent de  
7       Paul to help him.

8           I put those things to him when he gave evidence. He  
9       said that he remembers going to see you in the

10           , and this is at SND-17341. If we can just go --  
11       just at the bottom of that page it said that:

12           "You were having a conversation with ..."

13           He said:

14           "In the hospital, no. In the home, yes, but not in  
15       the hospital."

16           He does remember a conversation telling you about --  
17       telling -- talking about work, but he said it wasn't --  
18       that he wasn't doing taxiing for the Social Services.

19           "I work for the                   . I don't want work  
20       for the Social Services, and hospital, I don't remember  
21       that either. I was in the home she is in, the care  
22       home, but I don't remember going to any hospital."

23           I then continued that you didn't -- he said you  
24       never beat him with sticks or any other implement.

25           "Is it possible and I would have to ..."

1 I don't -- I am sorry. I can't make out quite what  
2 the transcript is saying there. He said he didn't  
3 remember saying anything about Social Services to you.

4 Then he talks about the meeting in  
5 and he said that:

6 "You say she thinks (sic) she had changed her name.  
7 You took with you at that stage, and you say  
8 that you:

9 '... told her that she abused me when I was in  
10 Termonbacca and she walked out of the room',"

11 and he said:

12 "I turned around and I says to her, 'I wouldn't have  
13 been here now if somebody hadn't beat me'. She says,  
14 'Who done it?' I says, 'You did it', and she got up and  
15 walked out."

16 He is quite adamant you got up and walked out of  
17 that conversation, sister.

18 **A. I was dealing with -- when he did come to the hospital**  
19 **to see me, it was the City Hospital, and ,**  
20 **who was years of age, and who was in**  
21 **he told me. HIA94 visited me there, bought me I think**  
22 **it was biscuits or something and a soft drink.**

23 **When he visited me in -- in the care unit, his**  
24 **was with him, and that was the first visit**  
25 **and his was with**

1 him, and he did talk about was he bad -- was he the  
2 worst in the home and I said, "Well, there's no worst  
3 and no better". I said, "Children are children  
4 whatever", but it was a later stage when he came back,  
5 and actually I think he visited me three times in the  
6 nursing home. The last time he came back he was on his  
7 own and he talked away and he said, "You know, sister,  
8 work is very slack and times are bad" and he kind of  
9 looked out the window. He said, "You have a fine  
10 building here". I said, "Yes". I said, "The residents  
11 are enjoying it". I didn't make further comment than  
12 that, and then he turned to me and he said, "You know,  
13 sister", he said, "you hit me when I was 4. I was hit  
14 in many places", he said, "but the worst time was when  
15 you hit me across the legs with the electric -- with the  
16 flex of the kettle", and I looked at him, and he went on  
17 to say -- he -- I think what he said next was that he  
18 was beaten or whatever. So I said, "Look, HIA94" --  
19 yes. Initially he said, "I want to make a complaint.  
20 You hit me when I was 4 and that was the worst time in  
21 my life, because that's started my troubles", he said.  
22 So I said, "Look, HIA94, if you have a complaint to  
23 make, certainly go ahead. I think you should go to  
24 Social Services", and that was it. Then when we -- he  
25 was smiling actually when he said that, that I had hit

1 him, because "I -- I was supposed to be your pet but you  
2 still hit me". Then he turned and he -- to go home and  
3 he said -- he put out his hand and he smiled and he  
4 said, "I'll be back again, sister". I said, "You will  
5 be welcome, HIA94". That was the last I saw of HIA94.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you, sister. I am going to stop there and  
7 I think we should take another short break before we go  
8 on to discuss any of the other allegations. Are you  
9 happy with a fifteen-minute break, sister?

10 **A. I am.**

11 Q. Is that sufficient?

12 **A. That is plenty, yes.**

13 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 12.05.

14 MS SMITH: 12.05 then, sister.

15 (11.52 am)

16 (Short break)

17 (12.05 pm)

18 MS SMITH: Sister, can you hear me all right?

19 **A. Yes, Christine. Yes. Thank you.**

20 Q. Sister, the next boy I'm going to ask you about is  
21 HIA196. He is "HIA196". Summarising his allegations,  
22 he said again you were in charge of the dorm. He  
23 said you weren't very nice. You weren't approachable.  
24 You were a bully. You were controlling, and you gave  
25 him a nickname which -- you called him "HIA196" and he

1 didn't like that. He essentially said that you were  
2 showing a different face to the outside world than you  
3 showed to children, and he said he had a good  
4 relationship with a foster family that he went out to,  
5 and that you threatened him if he didn't do things, he  
6 wouldn't get to go to the foster family. He complained  
7 that you made him pair socks from 5 o'clock one evening  
8 until midnight, and he says that you knew sexual abuse  
9 was going on and wondered whether you did nothing  
10 because the abusers were your favourites. He then said  
11 you were nice as pie to him when he came back to get his  
12 mother's contact details in

13 Now in your statement you say you don't remember him  
14 at all. Is that right, sister?

15 **A. I don't, but I did say that I thought he was the boy**  
16 **that had come with his family on**  
17 **holidays but was left behind, and I felt that he was**  
18 **there about a week or a fortnight. I know he had**  
19 **started back to school, but eventually one of the**  
20 **priests from the college took him**  
21 **I~have no memory of him.**

22 Q. Yes. Sister, I think you may --

23 **A. I have no memory.**

24 Q. I think you may be confused --

25 **A. Sorry.**



1 Q. -- and I think you may with respect have got the wrong  
2 boy because HIA196 was in Termonbacca for            years of  
3 your time and he was adopted from there when he was aged  
4        . It would appear to me, sister -- we can check the  
5 records, but certainly the records that we have got  
6 suggest that this was a different boy, and he certainly  
7 talks about -- just to be clear, when he gave evidence,  
8 he said -- I asked him what his relationship with the  
9 nuns was like, how would he describe it. He said:

10            "Well, SR1 was the            of the two nuns that was in  
11 charge and I never had any problems with her. I have  
12 witnessed her giving boys beatings, but I must have been  
13 a good boy, because I didn't get any beatings off her.  
14 SR2 was a completely different kettle of fish in that  
15 she had a built-in anger, hatred. There was no  
16 relationship whatsoever with her. You could say she was  
17 under pressure, but she really didn't have to be,  
18 because, you know, the boys were doing a good job in  
19 running the place and she should have had the life of  
20 Riley."

21            He then gives more details of his time in the home,  
22 and -- but essentially he was there for a longer period,  
23 but I think you may have -- you have no memory of HIA196  
24 or a "HIA196" other than the boy you have just said?

25 **A. No. I have no memory at all of him.**

1 Q. The next person --

2 **A. Sorry.**

3 Q. Yes. Sorry. Was there something else you wanted to say  
4 about that, sister?

5 **A. (Inaudible) with SND194, the girl that worked with me,  
6 if she remembered him and she had no memory of him  
7 either. So ...**

8 Q. The other person -- another person -- sorry, sister --  
9 is HIA150, "HIA50" (sic). He talks -- he makes a number  
10 of allegations again similar to the allegations made by  
11 other boys, but specifically relating to you he talks  
12 about an incident where there were five boys in the  
13 dorm and somebody broke a window, and he said  
14 that you made them all pull down their pants and that  
15 you beat them on their bare backsides with a kettle  
16 flex, and he also talks about you inspecting the  
17 underwear and about sewing pockets closed. He said you  
18 seemed to have multiple personalities where you would  
19 fake a smile in front of visitors, but when they left,  
20 you would turn on the children.

21 You deal with what he says in your second statement,  
22 which can be found at SND-17446 at paragraph 8. We  
23 might just look at that briefly. You say that:

24 "As a young child HIA150 was very quiet and timid.  
25 My memory of him is that he could have been easily

1 pushed around by the other boys. I was always wary for  
2 the younger boys and I looked out for them. I would not  
3 have sewn boys' pockets closed, but I remember making  
4 boys' shorts without pockets as I did not know how to  
5 make them at the time."

6 Is there anything else that you want to say, sister,  
7 about HIA150 or about his allegations to the Inquiry?

8 **A. Can I give you comments that I had from one or two boys**  
9 **regarding when the allegations started to come up, that**  
10 **HIA150 was one of the boys that had said he would give**  
11 **evidence for the care he had got, and what's hitting me**  
12 **through his allegations is it's -- and I feel -- I don't**  
13 **know -- I might be wrong -- but I feel it's like him**  
14 **taking a copy of whatever was presented to him and the**  
15 **other boys. I feel too that the boys evidently have**  
16 **either colluded together, but certainly I feel that**  
17 **there is something behind it.**

18 The allegations that HIA150 has made, I have no  
19 recollection of those happening. The question of the  
20 window, it could have happened. It could have been  
21 broken, but I have no memory of it happening.

22 **Q. If it did happen, sister, I take it do you accept you**  
23 **might have punished boys in the way that was described**  
24 **by HIA150?**

25 **A. No way. I never took down their pants to beat them and**

1           **I didn't use the belt or the stick on them.**

2    Q.   I think, just to be fair to you, sister, he alleged that  
3           you used the kettle flex to beat the boys on this  
4           occasion.

5    **A.   Yes.   Sorry.   The kettle flex.   I did not use it on him.**

6    Q.   Then if we can go on then, the next person who makes  
7           allegations is HIA237, and his statement can be found at  
8           SND-1681 to SND-1689. He is "HIA237". Again I am just  
9           going to summarise rather than call up the statement,  
10          but he said at paragraph 13 that he got smacked by nuns.  
11          They would say things like, "No wonder your mother put  
12          you in here". He said he kept reporting sexual abuse  
13          and he said that he told you but you said it was all  
14          lies. He thought he could talk to you and that's why he  
15          told you. He said that nuns would call the children  
16          "Dirty bastards" for wetting beds.

17                 In your statement you say that you recall him, but  
18                 say that you were never told about the abuse, and if you  
19                 had been, you would have acted to protect him. You  
20                 never beat a child or used bad language towards them.

21                 In his evidence to us he said that:

22                         "I told the nuns and they wouldn't pay no heed to  
23                         me."

24                 That's about abuse, and he said he was called a liar  
25                 for slandering the name of a priest when he told the

1 nuns he had been abused by a priest.

2 **A. Again -- what's his name?**

3 Q. HIA237, sister.

4 **A. HIA237. HIA237 was in SR5's group at that stage.**

5 I~don't know why he would be coming across to me to tell  
6 me, but certainly I have no recollection of him coming  
7 to tell me about abused or whatever.

8 Q. I think in fairness he said that he told -- well, he did  
9 say he told you because he thought he could talk to you.  
10 Did you have a friendly relationship with him? Do you  
11 remember that?

12 **A. As a general I would have, as any other child. I was**  
13 **friendly with them all, but again they automatically**  
14 **grow closer to the person that they were -- that was**  
15 **looking after them. I have no recollection of that.**

16 Q. Another boy, sister, who I know you have been friendly  
17 with is HIA66. Now he makes allegations of physical and  
18 sexual abuse by boys that he calls "charge boys". Was  
19 that expression ever used in the home, the "charge  
20 boys"?

21 **A. No, no, never to my knowledge.**

22 Q. He also complained -- complained of a number of things  
23 in relation to sexual abuse that he suffered, but he  
24 also said that the nuns left him outside in the snow on  
25 occasion. Do you ever remember boys being left outside?

1   **A. No recollection, no, no.**

2   Q. He speaks fondly of you, and in your statement -- that's  
3       at paragraph -- in two paragraphs of the statement,  
4       paragraphs 20 and 21. In your statement you deal  
5       with -- you speak about HIA66 at paragraphs 66 to 70,  
6       and he basically did speak well of you to the Inquiry as  
7       well, but he said that he hasn't been in touch with you  
8       since the Inquiry started. Is that correct?

9   **A. Yes. He rang me to tell me HIA67's -- HIA67's**

10                       **, and also he gave me HIA67's address**  
11       **and a phone number. I asked him for them.**

12   Q. Is that last time that you spoke to him?

13   **A. That's the last time. Then I rang back at another stage**  
14       **later on. It was during the time that we were checking**  
15       **out with -- with -- I think I was requested if there**  
16       **were boys willing to talk on the Sisters' behalf. He**  
17       **was one of the ones I did ring, but it was his wife that**  
18       **answered and she said HIA66 was out. So she said, "Can**  
19       **I help you?" I said, "I just wanted a word with HIA66",**  
20       **and she said, "Oh, HIA66 is -- HIA66 is attending the**  
21       **Inquiry". She said, "I don't know what he's gone up**  
22       **for, but he's gone up". So I said, "Look, in that case**  
23       **I will just leave him", and I didn't -- I didn't**  
24       **continue the conversation after that.**

25   Q. The next person, sister, is HIA68, "HIA68". He says in

1 his statement, which can be found at SND-1307 and  
2 onwards -- he says that you were quite good to him but  
3 that you did hit him now or again. He felt that you or  
4 SR8 noticed that he was being abused sexually, because  
5 the person who he alleged was abusing him was taken into  
6 the kitchen to work and HIA68 then became the blue-eyed  
7 boy, as it were. Can you comment on that, sister?

8 **A. I think the only recollection of that boy is I'm not**  
9 **sure if he was already -- if he had already left here,**  
10 **but I remember packing a bag for him when he was**  
11 **going -- the day he was going off .**

12 Q. He said --

13 **A. But apart of that -- yes, apart of that I have no memory**  
14 **of him.**

15 Q. You do say in your statement that you only have a vague  
16 recollection of him, that he was one of the older boys,  
17 and that you remember -- you told me that he went to the  
18

19 He said that he got on well with you and you were  
20 kind to him apart from hitting him now and again. You  
21 accept there were boys that you would have smacked now  
22 and again on the hand or bottom. He may have been one  
23 of them.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Is that possible?





1 and your statement was put to him and his response was:

2 "I can only say what happened to me."

3 Is there anything you want to say about HIA22 to the  
4 Inquiry, sister?

5 **A. HIA22 again was in SR5's group by that time. Also**  
6 **I remember only the one outstanding incident where as**  
7 **maybe a boy of 13, 14, whatever age he was, of being out**  
8 **playing and he went to cross over barbed wire, which his**  
9 **got caught in, and that man HIA136 we**  
10 **mentioned, he evidently cut the wire, and I took him to**  
11 **hospital to be seen to, but apart from that I have no**  
12 **recollection of him. I'd like -- I knew he was in the**  
13 **group, but I wouldn't have the close looking after him**  
14 **like the others.**

15 **Q.** Then, sister, there are three other people who -- from  
16 whom the Inquiry has received statements, and HIA411  
17 gave a statement to the Inquiry, but he was unable to  
18 come to give evidence. He alleged that he was run down  
19 by the nuns, that things were said like, "Nobody wanted  
20 you or gave a damn about you". He alleged there was  
21 physical abuse by the nuns -- yourself and SR1 would  
22 have hit him a slap -- that bedwetters were beaten, and  
23 he said that he was threatened with Muckamore. He talks  
24 about also sexual abuse in his statement, but you  
25 deny -- sorry. I mean, again you have denied any

1 knowledge of sexual abuse in the home and said you would  
2 have acted had you known. You also address in your  
3 second statement at page SND-17445, paragraphs 2 through  
4 to 7, what he said in his statement, which you had the  
5 opportunity to consider. That's where you talk about  
6 the priests, and you do not accept the children who wet  
7 the bed were ridiculed.

8 "SR1 and I were sympathetic to the children",  
9 and you talk there about the rota that you  
10 described yesterday.

11 Two other people, sister, who you deal with in that  
12 statement -- or maybe not in that -- in the earlier  
13 statement. They gave statements to the Inquiry but  
14 indicated right at the start that they didn't wish to be  
15 called to give evidence, but one HIA102, who is  
16 "HIA102", indicated from the outset that -- well, he  
17 describes physical abuse by you and SR1. He also  
18 describes sexual abuse and physical abuse by the older  
19 boys, and he said that he told you and SR1 and was told  
20 to shut up.

21 He also made an allegation about physical and sexual  
22 abuse while working in kitchens in when he was  
23 aged He said that after an attempted sexual  
24 assault he ran back to Termonbacca and he was slapped  
25 and called an "ungrateful brat" and was accused of

1 making up lies.

2 Now in your statement at SND-11650 at paragraphs 43  
3 to 46 you talk about what he says in his statement, but  
4 you also said something to me about him working in  
5 kitchens in at age What do you want  
6 to say about that, sister?

7 **A. The fact he was aged , if he was in our care,**  
8 **there was no way he would be out working in the kitchen.**  
9 **There were boys that worked in that who**  
10 **were working there after they left -- after they left**  
11 **Termonbacca, but I have never heard of him working in**  
12 **the kitchen in --**

13 Q. At that age.

14 **A. -- in the Sorry. I make that clear.**  
15 **I have no recollection of him working and I don't think**  
16 **-- if he was , he would not be working at that**  
17 **age.**

18 Q. Then another one who made a statement but indicated that  
19 he didn't wish to be called was HIA98, "HIA98". He  
20 describes among other things physical abuse and says  
21 that he saw you beating boys with the flex of a kettle,  
22 including someone who is named in his statement as  
23 "HIA94". You assume he meant HIA94.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You address that in your statement at paragraph 73. He

1 also said that SND194 was as bad as the nuns. Is there  
2 anything you want to say about what he has said in his  
3 statement, sister?

4 A. Number one, I was shocked when HIA98 made the  
5 allegation. HIA98 did visit me . I am not sure now  
6 when it was, but he did tell me -- he said, "Sister,  
7 I did see you beating HIA94 with the flex and also  
8 HIA11". No. Sorry. It was HIA94. He said, "I saw you  
9 beating HIA94", and I said to him, "HIA98", I said --  
10 I~don't know exactly what I said now, to tell you the  
11 truth, but I was greatly taken back, because HIA98 was  
12 a boy that had come up to me with and  
13 and actually came to visit me here in  
14 as well, but I was shocked when I heard it and it  
15 worried me all the more because HIA98 was, as I knew  
16 him, a boy that was loved and cared for and reacted back  
17 to us the same, but what he did comment to me about  
18 the -- about the Inquiry was something to this nature:  
19 "We need money to educate our children", something to  
20 that effect. I think that was his -- were the words he  
21 said, but it definitely was "to educate our children".

22 Q. Sister, HIA144 spoke to us and he said that you thought  
23 badly of him. He didn't get on with you. He never  
24 liked you. Is there anything you want to say about  
25 HIA144?

1    **A. Again HIA144 was a quiet boy and I felt one that -- he**  
2       **didn't mix with the other boys, and I always felt sorry**  
3       **for him, because at that stage he was                    and**  
4       **I felt pushed aside, if you like, but I never, never,**  
5       **never to my memory said anything offensive to HIA144,**  
6       **because he was always very obliging or whatever.**

7    **Q. Just a few more, sister. HIA382, he said that there**  
8       **were a few nuns who beat him. This is "HIA382". SR6**  
9       **and you would hit and -- hit you where it didn't mark.**  
10      **He says that he was given orange tablets by the nuns.**  
11      **I know that you say, sister, you have no recollection of**  
12      **him. Is that correct?**

13    **A. No, I have not.**

14    **Q. Can I ask were the boys given any orange tablets at all**  
15      **to your memory?**

16    **A. No, not to my -- not to my knowledge, no. The boys were**  
17      **healthy and outgoing and ...**

18    **Q. What about vitamins or vitamin tablets, such as**  
19      **Haliborange or something like that? Would they have**  
20      **been given those?**

21    **A. No, not that I know of. Again they got good wholesome**  
22      **food from the farm, which we felt was sufficient, you**  
23      **know.**

24    **Q. Now, sister, all of those related to Termonbacca. There**  
25      **was only one person who has made any complaint about**

1 your time in Bishop Street and that's a girl called  
2 HIA233 she is now, but you would have known her as  
3 HIA233.

4 **A. HIA233.**

5 Q. You remember the family being in Nazareth House?

6 **A. Yes, I do. The family that went through Nazareth  
7 through the years.**

8 Q. In fact, some of them, in fact, would have been in  
9 Termonbacca before that too -- isn't that so -- some of  
10 the older children?

11 **A. Yes, they would have. I think the girls were in the  
12 nursery.**

13 Q. Well, she is "HIA233", and she claims that she was force  
14 fed by you and others when she was in Nazareth House.  
15 We have dealt with the issue of force feeding, but  
16 specifically in relation to HIA233 is there anything you  
17 want to say about force feeding, sister?

18 **A. No. This is the very first I have heard of it. Also  
19 I got in touch with SND40, who worked in the group with  
20 me in Bishop Street, and I did ask her could she  
21 remember any incidents, and what she said, she's already  
22 sent a report to the Inquiry group, because she was  
23 aware of the incident being made.**

24 Q. The allegation being made?

25 **A. But there were -- the allegation made, yes.**

1 Q. The other allegation that HIA233 makes is that the night  
2 before the exam she claimed she was ill and she  
3 says she knocked on her door. She said you thought she  
4 was trying to get out of doing the . You left  
5 her lying on the bathroom floor all night. The next  
6 morning she had to go by ambulance to hospital and  
7 . Do you remember  
8 , first of all, sister?

9 **A. I don't. I don't definitely. Definitely if any were**  
10 **knocking -- sorry.**

11 Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

12 **A. If anybody knocked on my door, I definitely would come**  
13 **out, but I have no recollection of her knocking, but**  
14 **I know she was I'd say a difficult child to manage.**

15 Q. Two other pieces of material that we have received  
16 indicates that some other -- SND71. Do you remember  
17 SND71 at all, sister?

18 **A. Sorry?**

19 Q. SND71, does that name ring any bells?

20 **A. No, it doesn't.**

21 Q. A piece of material that the Inquiry has received said  
22 that he complained about you to a psychiatrist, saying  
23 that you in particular were cruel to him and to others.  
24 Just is there any comment? You don't even remember this  
25 name at all. Is that correct?

1    **A. I don't even remember the name or was -- was he in**  
2       **Termonbacca. I don't know.**

3    Q. Another boy, SND33, do you remember SND33?

4    **A. Yes, I do.**

5    Q. He told police --

6    **A. I do remember him.**

7    Q. Sorry, sister. You do remember him?

8    **A. Yes. Go ahead. Yes. I do, yes.**

9    Q. He told police -- he told police that he told you he was  
10       abused by HIA69, and that as a result HIA69 was moved  
11       out of the group that he was in and into your group or  
12       was moved group as a result of the complaint to you. Do  
13       you remember SND33 ever telling you anything about  
14       HIA69?

15   **A. No, but I do know that the police came to me in Derry**  
16       **and asked me about HIA144, who was supposed to have**  
17       **abused SND33 in the kitchen when he was a small child --**  
18       **well, a young boy, but I explained to him that I know**  
19       **nothing of it and -- nothing of that. I explained to**  
20       **him I hadn't heard anything about it. They enquired**  
21       **about two other boys which I gave the names, but**  
22       **regarding HIA69, I have -- I know he was over in SR6's**  
23       **group, but I have no recollection of him moving to my**  
24       **group.**

25   Q. Just because we have raised the subject of HIA69,



1 sister, it might be an appropriate time to deal with  
2 him. You do remember him. Now we spoke about this  
3 earlier as well. I am going to show you some documents  
4 here and perhaps they can be got for you to look at.

5 He has told the Inquiry that SR6 grabbed him round  
6 the throat. He then ran away from Termonbacca, and the  
7 fact that he was missing at the  
8 time. You have no recollection of that?

9 **A. I haven't.**

10 Q. He said that --

11 **A. I don't know if I was there. Do you have the date that**  
12 **that happened?**

13 Q. Yes. I am going to show you some documents now, sister  
14 --

15 **A. Okay.**

16 Q. -- and ask you to look at them. The first of these if  
17 we can look at SND-2223 and hopefully there's a copy for  
18 you there to see, sister. If we could look at this.

19 First of all, sister, you see this -- I was talking  
20 to you yesterday about record-keeping, and is this the  
21 kind of form that SND332 devised for the Sisters? You  
22 see it is headed "Internal Case Review. To be completed  
23 by member of staff responsible for the child".

24 **A. Actually I think when we went to Bishop Street, he would**  
25 **have devised something like this, but we put in more**

1 details as to the behaviour, school behaviour, home  
2 behaviour and condition of the child and that, but  
3 similar to that.

4 Q. Do you remember filling in forms like this in  
5 Termonbacca on the boys?

6 A. No, no. I don't think so, no.

7 Q. Do you think this was maybe filled in by SND332 or can  
8 I ask whose handwriting that is? Do you recognise it?

9 A. Unless it's --

10 Q. Could it be SR6's handwriting?

11 A. It may be or it could be one of the staff there, one of  
12 the carers.

13 Q. You will see that it is dated --

14 A. (Inaudible.)

15 Q. Sorry, sister. It is dated at the top " Do  
16 you see just there at the top in the corner?

17 A. Yes, indeed.

18 Q. Then it says:

19 "To be completed by member of staff responsible for  
20 the child."

21 It gives the child's name, date of birth, the date  
22 the child is admitted, which was in the  
23 responsible local authority, the Western Health Board,  
24 Derry, referred by welfare, "Responsibility:

25 SND 484 ", who would have been HIA69's social worker,

1 and the house or group: . Was that SR6's  
2 group?

3 **A. ? Yes. St. -- I'm trying to think what was**  
4 **the name. Ours was . Maybe it was**  
5 **but I'm not sure. I can't recollect.**

6 Q. This document sets out contact and relationship with  
7 child's own family, with siblings or other relatives,  
8 outside contacts -- if we just scroll down, please --  
9 emotional development, behaviour, relationships in the  
10 children's home, and you see there just in those --  
11 paragraph 2 and 3 it says:

12 "Appears to be a very disturbed lad. Loathes any  
13 form of correction.

14 Cannot bear to be corrected. In conflict most of  
15 the time with staff (residents)."

16 Is that your recollection of HIA69, sister?

17 **A. Well, he was going to at that time, but**  
18 **I hadn't -- I hadn't heard much about his behaviour in**  
19 **the house.**

20 Q. It says that:

21 "He's not liked very much. He is very aggressive  
22 unless they fall in with his wishes."

23 He did transfer from SR6's group over to yours and  
24 you had the care of him. Isn't that correct?

25 **A. Again I checked that out with staff that worked with me**



1           agreed that we should try to find a placement for him in  
2           the family."

3           Now, sister, this is -- seems to be, reading that,  
4           SND484 has spoken to SND332 and they've spoken to SR6,  
5           and SR6 seems to accept she grabbed HIA69 by the throat,  
6           because he was cheeky to her. Do you have any  
7           recollection of that incident at all or being told about  
8           it?

9           **A. First of that I heard was when you brought it up with me**  
10           **at the initial meeting.**

11          Q. Yes, but certainly you would accept then that SR6 seems  
12          to be accepting that she did do it?

13          **A. Indeed, yes.**

14          Q. Okay. If we can just scroll down, please, just -- you  
15          see there on

16                 "Talked to SR6 about HIA69. Feels she still cannot  
17                 make any kind of relationship with him and that he is  
18                 still defying her authority, although not overtly."

19                 Then if we can scroll on down to the next page,  
20

21                 "Phone call from SR6 re HIA69. Cannot cope with  
22                 him. Wants him removed."

23                 Then down on

24                 "Talked to HIA69 and SND332. HIA69 says he  
25                 definitely wants to leave Termonbacca."

1           Then that's about someone else. Then on

2

3           "SR2 phones -- phoned. Says she has talked to HIA69  
4 and has agreed to have him transferred to her group."

5           That's signed by SND484.

6   **A. Yes.**

7   Q. So that would appear you have spoken to HIA69 and said,  
8 "Look" -- well, do you remember that conversation at  
9 all?

10 **A. I don't, and I don't remember him coming into the group.**

11 Q. This was in                   --

12 **A. I was (inaudible).**

13 Q. -- and that wouldn't have been terribly long before you  
14 left Termonbacca. Isn't that correct?

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

16 Q. So it may have been --

17 **A. (Inaudible.)**

18 Q. He may have only been in your group for a short period  
19 of time.

20 **A. Even then I can't remember him in the group at all.**

21 Q. Okay. Thank you, sister.

22 **A. But (inaudible).**

23 Q. Sister, there's just one other piece of evidence that  
24 I~am going to put to you before we maybe take another  
25 short break, and that's -- you are aware that the

1 Inquiry has received a statement from SND21, which can  
2 be found at SND-15859 (sic). This is someone who worked  
3 with SR6. Isn't that correct?

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

5 Q. Sorry. 17859. 17859. I think I maybe gave out the  
6 wrong number, as I am prone to do. Yes. You see this  
7 is her statement, sister. I think you should have  
8 a copy there anyway, but if I can just go to  
9 paragraph 4, she -- in paragraph 4 -- I am not going to  
10 go into the whole statement, sister, but she complained  
11 that she was doing a residential child care course and  
12 she was learning child care theory at that course, and  
13 when she tried to implement some of the theories:

14 "... SR6 said to me, 'You are not coming here to  
15 introduce any theories to us'. When I tried to apply my  
16 training in any way, the nuns did not like it and  
17 resisted it."

18 Would you accept that, sister, that the nuns were  
19 resistant to being told maybe by a young girl how they  
20 should look after the children?

21 **A. The fact she was sent out to do the course was a good**  
22 **example that sisters would want and that was one of our**  
23 **ambitions, to get the staff trained, because if the**  
24 **staff were okay, we had (inaudible) children. So that's**  
25 **my own (inaudible).**

1 Q. At paragraph 6 she talks about SR14. Describes her as:

2 "... strict and controlling, not emotionally  
3 attached to the children."

4 Can I just pause there? When did SR14 come to  
5 Termonbacca? How does she fit into the -- did she take  
6 over from SR6?

7 **A. She must have, yes, yes.**

8 Q. Was she there during your time? Was SR14 --

9 **A. (Inaudible.)**

10 Q. Sorry. Was SR14 in Termonbacca when you were there,  
11 sister?

12 **A. It was. She was in SR6's group, yes.**

13 Q. She -- what SND21 says is that:

14 "SR14 shouted at the children a lot but I never saw  
15 her hit a child."

16 Well, she actually then says SR6 replaced SR14. Is  
17 that your recollection?

18 **A. SR6 replaced?**

19 Q. SR14.

20 **A. I'm sorry. I can't just remember. I know she was  
21 there. Yes, she was there.**

22 Q. She describes SR6 as controlling and everything had to  
23 be spick and span.

24 "She was cross with the children and often  
25 threatened, 'I will give you a kick up the ass'. I did



1 see her kick children on the bum with her boot, but this  
2 was more to move them along rather than to hurt them.  
3 SR6 shouted at children, but I never saw her hit a child  
4 with her hand or anything else. I sensed from the  
5 children that they were very -- they were uneasy in her  
6 company."

7 Then at paragraph 8 she speaks about you. She says:

8 "SR2 was in charge of the other group in  
9 Termonbacca. I didn't think she was very nice. On one  
10 occasion I saw her and SR6 talking about people who  
11 donated money and were visiting the home, saying,  
12 'I wish they would go now'. I don't think she had a  
13 nice attitude to people who were trying to help them.  
14 She backstabbed people who were good to them and kind to  
15 the children. SR2 appeared to be the matriarch in  
16 Termonbacca. I do know that some of the boys thought  
17 that SR2 was kind."

18 That's her recollection of you, sister, and I just  
19 wondered is there anything you want to say about that?  
20 I appreciate that it's her opinion.

21 **A. Well, I can live with their opinions, yes.**

22 Q. She does say:

23 "It was a very regimented life in Termonbacca.  
24 Uniforms had to be neat and shoes had to be polished."  
25 She said:

1           "The nuns were very concerned about portraying  
2           a good image to the outside world."

3           Would you accept that, sister?

4   **A. No. What any good mother would do, send your children**  
5           **out clean or whatever, but the persons themselves were**  
6           **looked after.**

7   Q. At paragraph 11 she said that:

8           "There was not enough staff for the ratio of  
9           children in Termonbacca. If the nuns had had their way,  
10          I would have been on duty every night, but I had other  
11          commitments."

12          So she seems to suggest that I think she was being  
13          taken advantage of by the Sisters in being made to work.  
14          Would you accept that, sister?

15   **A. I would say she would have got the same treatment as the**  
16           **other staff, but I have no -- I didn't actually work**  
17           **with the girl. So I have no idea where she got that**  
18           **from.**

19   Q. At paragraph 16 she talks about:

20          "Punishments in Termonbacca consisted of children  
21          being made to go to bed early, being deprived of things  
22          or not being allowed outside to play."

23          She said:

24          "The nuns commonly said to children, 'I am in charge  
25          of you because you have no-one else'. I thought this

1 was a cruel thing to say."

2 Do you have any recollection of any of the nuns  
3 saying anything like that to children, sister?

4 **A. I have not witnessed it, but definitely it's not**  
5 **something I would say to a child or expect any sister to**  
6 **say to them.**

7 Q. She talks about the children doing chores from a young  
8 age and then she said at 18:

9 "I do not think poverty was the reason why the nuns  
10 ran Termonbacca in the way they did. I was of the view  
11 that the nuns were money-led rather than needs-led. One  
12 time I was in the convent and the nuns used the best  
13 china and had excellent furniture. They didn't eat with  
14 the children. They ate in their own dining room and  
15 I believe they ate better food than the children."

16 **A. We ate the same food as the children and our delft was**  
17 **very ordinary.**

18 Q. At paragraph 21 she said:

19 "I do not recall any inspections in the home while  
20 I was there, although children did have social workers  
21 and I would have had some involvement with them. I kept  
22 a day book, which recorded appointments and daily events  
23 which involved the children."

24 We think that there were inspections in your memory.  
25 Isn't that right, sister?

1    **A. No. If there was, I would have heard of it, because our**  
2       **children would be liable to pick it up if it was there,**  
3       **but at that stage each child had their own social worker**  
4       **and would have -- they would have been aware of anything**  
5       **that was --**

6    Q. Any problems?

7    **A. -- anything that was going on like that. Yes, any**  
8       **problems.**

9    Q. In paragraph 26 she said:

10        "In Termonbacca the nuns were very into praying and  
11        following their own rules. I used to go home and vent  
12        my frustration to my mother. I told her, 'The nuns are  
13        supposed to be with God' and I had not seen any proof of  
14        that in Termonbacca. The gentleness, kindness and  
15        compassion which the children needed wasn't provided by  
16        the nuns."

17        She said:

18        "I learned a lot from my time in Termonbacca.  
19        I learned how to be a better social worker."

20        Would you accept that comment, sister?

21    **A. Again her comments, they are hers. I can't judge on**  
22       **them.**

23    Q. Now, sister, there are a number of people who speak very  
24        fondly of you and very highly of you, and I am not sure  
25        how -- we are reaching the end of what I want to cover

1 with you, sister. So I am not sure whether you feel you  
2 need a break now or whether we can go on for a short  
3 period of time.

4 **A. No, I will be fine. I can go on.**

5 Q. You are quite sure, sister, because I know we have been  
6 --

7 **A. I am sure, yes.**

8 Q. Well, I mean, some of the boys that you have spoken of,  
9 SND136 recalls -- I mean, what he talks about is how you  
10 punished him. He remembers being given lines by you as  
11 a punishment and he said that you laughed when you saw  
12 him pressing down harder where he was writing out,  
13 "I must not be cheeky to SR2", when he was pressing down  
14 on the "SR2", he was giving that emphasis, and you  
15 laughed what you saw that and gave him a hug. He said  
16 he was only slapped by you on one occasion, which was to  
17 calm him down when he hurt himself. He remembers you as  
18 loving, caring and compassionate, and when he gave  
19 evidence to the Inquiry the other day, he spoke very  
20 highly of how and how upset he was when you had to leave  
21 Termonbacca.

22 SND76, another boy who you looked after, speaks  
23 about you intervening with the IRA, who were coming into  
24 the grounds of Termonbacca. He again talked about you  
25 leaving Termonbacca and how emotional that was both for

1 you and for the children. He said that he rarely saw  
2 you hit any of the children. You would have used your  
3 hand, not an implement. You would not have condoned the  
4 older boys beating younger ones. He says boys were  
5 prescribed Largactil by the boy (sic) to calm them down,  
6 although he doesn't say how many. You say that was two.

7 SND332, with whom you worked, said you were  
8 a dedicated and committed individual and that you cared  
9 very deeply. He said you were particularly anxious to  
10 have a social work input and he said in oral evidence  
11 that you tried to help the ex-residents and that he had  
12 a lot of time for you. He was asked to describe your  
13 strengths and weaknesses and he talked about the work  
14 that you did and the concern that you had for the  
15 ex-residents, but he did say that you could be  
16 pig-headed, sister, when he was asked to describe your  
17 weaknesses.

18 **A. That's okay.**

19 Q. And that's fair?

20 **A. Yes. That's fair again.**

21 Q. SND484 was always impressed by your kindness and the  
22 care that you seemed to have for the welfare of each  
23 child.

24 SND491, another social worker, said you were a  
25 very warm, caring individual, very smiley. You took

1 every child and just instantly made them feel at home  
2 and you were a great advocate for them as well.

3 "So she was always -- she regarded them as her  
4 children and referred to them in that way and that was  
5 the way I experienced her throughout."

6 HIA151, who was one of the boys who was in  
7 Termonbacca, in evidence said that you treated him quite  
8 fairly and with your influence some of the other things  
9 that he complained about in the home softened.

10 A Detective Constable encountered you in  
11 relation to a criminal investigation about allegations  
12 involving a member of staff at Nazareth House.  
13 Describes as you a dedicated person, strong in your  
14 religious beliefs, and the kiddies were the centre of  
15 your working concerns, and he believes in this  
16 particular instance the Sisters of Nazareth reacted  
17 swiftly and appropriately to the allegations that were  
18 made.

19 If I can just go on to that, those allegations  
20 related to when you were in Bishop Street, sister, and  
21 there was a --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- SND38 who had been working there a year before you  
24 came to be in Bishop Street. Isn't that correct?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. In 1996 there was a disclosure made by a child relating  
2 back to the period and as a result of that  
3 disclosure SND38 was suspended. Then there was a nun  
4 sent to investigate the allegations on behalf of the  
5 Sisters of Nazareth and she reported, and her report can  
6 be found at SND-15914 through to SND-15917. We don't  
7 need to pull that up, but do you recollect at all did  
8 you have anything to do with her being sent to  
9 investigate the allegations, sister?

10 **A. She would be one of three sisters, including our -- our**  
11 **Regional Superior, myself and Sister -- I can't just**  
12 **remember her name now. She was at a meeting, a meeting**  
13 **in regards to the person involved.**

14 Q. SR10 I think the name was. SR10?

15 **A. That's right. SR10, but she was possibly the one**  
16 **dedicated -- dedicated to find out what was what.**  
17 **I remember her coming, but I didn't see the result of**  
18 **her report or whatever.**

19 Q. Well, on her recommendation this man SND38 is  
20 reinstated. Then there were subsequently allegations  
21 made by others, .  
22 There was a police investigation and he was never  
23 prosecuted, but he took  
24 against the Sisters of Nazareth. What he has said is  
25 that you were determined to get rid of him and that you



1 manipulated children into making allegations against  
2 him, and I want to ask you what you want to say about  
3 that, sister.

4 **A.** I want to say as regards the staff in his group -- he  
5 was in charge of the group -- I said to staff  
6 if they heard any -- this was after the incident was  
7 revealed to me and where Social Services and the police  
8 were involved -- I asked them if they heard -- if they  
9 would record any incidents where children recorded if  
10 anything had happened. It was more or less as well as  
11 getting evidence for them to record what children had  
12 said and what they thought about, or if staff had  
13 anything to say, but that was that. That is what  
14 I requested the staff to do, but there was nothing that  
15 came up in anything that the staff said.

16 **Q.** But, sister --

17 **A.** (Inaudible). Yes.

18 **Q.** Sorry. I just was asking you about -- you don't accept  
19 I take it then that you manipulated children in any way  
20 to make allegations about him?

21 **A.** No, no. I asked them if they could record any -- any  
22 allegations -- not allegation -- but any comments that  
23 the children were making. I asked them to record that,  
24 and as regards SND38 being the first time with the --  
25 with the knowledge of Social Services, they laid him off

1 while the investigation was going on, but because of  
2 other comments made by his -- made by the child's mother  
3 -- all through life while the children were there there  
4 was always complaints against the social workers, but  
5 I felt that SND38 was probably one too that was picked  
6 out, whatever, by the boy -- by the boy's mother, but  
7 then after I had taken him back, when we could find no  
8 fault, I had no substance of anything, two other  
9 children from the community made some allegations of  
10 whatever, and at that time I was advised by Social  
11 Services to dismiss him for the time being.

12 Q. So he said too that you were happy with his work and you  
13 would seem to confirm that. You didn't actually believe  
14 the allegations about him when they first arose. Is  
15 that correct?

16 A. No. It wasn't till I had a boy's -- there were two  
17 children, the older boy and the younger boy. The  
18 younger boy went into the room where he was actually  
19 examining or whatever another boy's -- the boy's  
20 trousers were open and he -- he didn't say what he was  
21 doing, but the younger boy came down to me hysterically  
22 saying he had gone into the room and saw that, and it  
23 was from there -- it was from there that he came about  
24 to be dismissed --

25 Q. That was --

1 A. -- and was laid off -- laid off until the early -- until  
2 it was sorted out. Sorry. I'm not getting it right.

3 Q. It is okay, sister. He said that you were obsessed with  
4 sexual abuse as a reason for a child's problems. Is  
5 that a fair comment?

6 A. No. He was the one that came to me. For example, the  
7 same two boys he told me were sitting on the window  
8 ledge of the toilet which was divided into -- by  
9 a temporary -- a temporary wall or whatever. They were  
10 both sitting on the window and evidently fondling each  
11 other, and he came to me the next morning and he said he  
12 had seen this and he heard it. So I immediately got the  
13 joiner to fix the window that when it was opened, there  
14 was no way they could put their hands across. It was  
15 things like that he would keep me alert of, such and  
16 such a thing, but that was one of them.

17 Q. Sister, you have seen in your career great changes in  
18 childcare, and you talk about this in paragraphs 91 to  
19 92 of your statement, if we might just go back to that,  
20 which is at page -- the first statement. So it is  
21 page SND-11657. You talked about the SND38 incident  
22 there, and you say that the -- you recall the change in  
23 attitude towards the children in care and the way in  
24 which the understanding of abuse changed. You give the  
25 example of SND38, and you say:

1 "It is in light of this incident that I look back  
2 and think that our arrangements did allow for the  
3 opportunity for some of the type of the abuse alleged to  
4 have occurred. In particular, peer bullying would have  
5 been fairly easily managed among groups, as we simply  
6 could not maintain oversight of the children. I think  
7 the development into smaller units where there were  
8 higher numbers of staff and better funding was a great  
9 advancement to the provision of care for children,  
10 although in reality it is my belief that no child should  
11 ever end up in care. The environment in which a child  
12 is brought up is very important and the lack of a close,  
13 intimate family is always going to be damaging to  
14 a child."

15 Can I just say, sister, given the length of period  
16 of time which you cared for children, did the  
17 qualification that you received, the social work  
18 qualification that you received in -- sorry --  
19 , do you think that changed your perception of  
20 how children should be cared for?

21 **A. Physically, yes, and emotionally, but to have the**  
22 **knowledge as well to go with it is very, very important,**  
23 **and we were -- yes. What I mean to say, your own**  
24 **instinct built up with your information from the course**  
25 **certainly helps.**

1 Q. Sister, you will be glad to know that that's all I want  
2 to ask you myself. I am going to hand you over to the  
3 Panel shortly, but before do I that I just want to be  
4 sure that you are happy that we have covered all the  
5 issues that you want the Inquiry to hear about. You are  
6 aware they have your written statements and they can  
7 look at that again, but is there anything at this stage  
8 that you want to say that we haven't covered or that you  
9 feel you ought to say?

10 **A. I just want to say thank you, number one, for helping me**  
11 **through this, but for children I hope that there won't**  
12 **be any more institutions as such. They would be better**  
13 **off in a good home with a loving father and mother, if**  
14 **it's possible, because -- and as well as that staff**  
15 **coming in, trained staff, trained staff made to carry --**  
16 **as well as having the training and the information they**  
17 **need to have a heart to go with it in caring for**  
18 **a child, and therefore I think anybody dealing with**  
19 **children that they need to be understanding and caring**  
20 **apart from the academic end of it.**

21 Q. Thank you very much, sister. I'm sure the Panel Members  
22 may have some questions for you and hopefully we will  
23 get finished shortly.

24 **A. Thank you.**

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL (cont.)

2 MS DOHERTY: Sister, I am just going to ask you a question.

3 You have given a lot of your life dedicated to the care  
4 of children and you have had your training, as Christine  
5 has said. Can you just say to us a wee bit about how  
6 you think your personal practice has changed, you know,  
7 from the time you started in Termonbacca to, you know,  
8 when you finished at Nazareth House, how you feel your  
9 approach to work changed with children?

10 A. Can I go back? The big problem we had, the initial  
11 problem, I feel finance and help in that way was our  
12 biggest problem. Even when we moved to the huts, it was  
13 a much better life for the children than in the big, big  
14 group, and the fact that things moved on where we were  
15 able to give them what a normal child would get in their  
16 own home, and also a proper home to live in, and staff,  
17 because the staff -- the staff can only come when you  
18 have the finance to pay them, but I felt it's very  
19 important that they have good facilities when they come  
20 in. They need -- no matter what standard they come in  
21 from up at their home they need to set a standard for  
22 them, because, as one boy said to me, "If we hadn't  
23 the -- if we hadn't the care and the love that we  
24 received from the Sisters, how could we give that love"  
25 to their own children?

1 Q. Uh-huh.

2 **A. That was one boy's comment.**

3 Q. And I think, sister, you have set out very well how  
4 things changed and the impact of under-resourcing and  
5 under-training and how the structures changed and that  
6 helped, but I was just wondering about you personally,  
7 you as an individual worker, how you feel that your  
8 practice with children changed, accepting that the  
9 structures changed, but just how you personally worked.

10 **A. Well, it made myself -- it made it easier, but in the**  
11 **latter years of children coming in, for example, the**  
12 **boys in the home, HIA69 is the only boy that I heard**  
13 **ever running away from Termonbacca. That's the only boy**  
14 **I heard running away. In my later stage where I had**  
15 **experience in Bishop Street the more difficult children**  
16 **that came in were -- at times had run away and it was**  
17 **there where the police helped to find them each time,**  
18 **because they got no peace until the child returned to --**  
19 **they'd be mainly young people.**

20 Q. Just finally, sister, with all that you have learned  
21 through the years and with all the experiences you have  
22 had through the years, if you look back to your time at  
23 Termonbacca, are there things that you would do  
24 differently? Learning what you have learnt and having  
25 experienced it, are there things you would do

1 differently in your work with the children?

2 **A. Definitely. I would -- I found -- and it was one of my**  
3 **regrets that I didn't have the training, because the**  
4 **boys that complained about sexual abuse and beatings and**  
5 **all the rest, I would have been able to prevent that.**  
6 **It is one of my biggest regrets that we didn't have more**  
7 **to start with.**

8 Q. Okay. Thank you, sister.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 MR LANE: I realise that you have answered all the original  
11 allegations that have been made and put to you by  
12 Ms~Smith, but nearly all of them related to your time in  
13 Termonbacca and very few to your time in Bishop Street.  
14 Do you link that with the question of staffing and  
15 resources and so on or do you have another explanation?

16 **A. I would say it was for the lack of staff and the**  
17 **resources that we didn't have, plus the building the**  
18 **children were living in.**

19 Q. Right. Thank you. Just one practical question. When  
20 you were in your cell at night, did you expect children  
21 to knock on your door if there was a problem?

22 **A. Not the little ones, because I would hear them, but**  
23 **again, yes, I know I would have told them to come and**  
24 **knock, of course, yes.**

25 Q. Right, and did they actually do that?



1 **A. And they were.**

2 Q. They actually did that?

3 **A. There wasn't the need. They didn't have the need,**  
4 **because I know a time they need to get up, maybe at 2.00**  
5 **or 3.00 or whatever.**

6 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

7 **A. Thank you, sir.**

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, sister, thank you very much for speaking to  
9 us and speaking to us at such length over a day and  
10 a half. Thank you very much indeed. That's all we need  
11 to ask you at the moment.

12 **A. Thank you.**

13 CHAIRMAN: It is, however, possible that at some stage in  
14 the future we might need to ask you to come back to  
15 speak about your time in Belfast, but as far as your  
16 time in Derry is concerned, that's all we need to ask  
17 you. Thank you again.

18 **A. Thank you very much, your Honour.**

19 MS SMITH: Thank you, sister.

20 (Live link terminated)

21 MS SMITH: Chairman, that concludes the week's evidence.

22 CHAIRMAN: Well, ladies and gentlemen, we will resume in due  
23 course Monday week. Thank you.

24 (1.07 pm)

25 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 am on Monday, 19th May 2014)