

<p>1 2 3 4 ----- 5 6 HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY 7 8 ----- 9 10 being heard before: 11 12 SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman) 13 MR DAVID LANE 14 MS GERALDINE DOHERTY 15 16 held at 17 Banbridge Court House 18 Banbridge 19 20 on Tuesday, 11th January 2014 21 commencing at 10.30 am 22 (Day 8) 23 24 MS CHRISTINE SMITH, QC and MR JOSEPH AIKEN appeared as 25 Counsel to the Inquiry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 A. Okay. 2 Q. HIA105, first of all, you are now aged 53. Is that 3 correct? 4 A. Yes, that's correct. 5 Q. You were, first of all, resident in Fahan Nursery in 6 Donegal and then you were moved when you were almost 7 to Nazareth House in Belfast -- sorry -- in Derry, 8 Bishop Street. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. You were there between 1962 and 1976. 11 A. That's correct. 12 Q. If we just confirm that by looking at a document. Can 13 we put up SND-4453, please? Now this -- I've explained 14 to you earlier about the details that are blacked out in 15 this. These details do refer to you, and this is 16 a letter that you received from the Sisters of Nazareth 17 when you were looking for details of your time in care. 18 You will see that it says that you, HIA105, were 19 born in Omagh in County Tyrone. Your mother's name is 20 given there. It shows that you were admitted to 21 Nazareth House, Bishop Street on 1st May 1962, when you 22 were transferred from Fahan Nursery in County Donegal. 23 It sets out the dates of your sacraments, and it says 24 that you left on 1st July 1976. The nun who has written 25 this to you says that she is sorry to tell you that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 Tuesday, 11th February 2014 2 (10.30 am) 3 WITNESS HIA105 (called) 4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning. 5 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and 6 gentlemen. Our first witness this morning is HIA105. 7 Just stand up, please. 8 CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to take the oath or to make 9 an affirmation? They have the same legal effect. 10 A. I will take the oath. 11 CHAIRMAN: Very well. 12 HIA105 (sworn) 13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down. 14 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY 15 MS SMITH: Good morning, HIA105. 16 A. Good morning. 17 Q. Can I just ask you to speak into the microphone so that 18 everyone in the chamber can hear what you say and we 19 have to get a recording of what you say also? 20 A. Right. Okay. 21 Q. It's maybe a little bit far away from you. So we are 22 just going to move it towards you somewhat. There is 23 water in front of you if you want some, and if you feel 24 like you need a break at any time, please just say and 25 we will take a short break.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 "... this is the only information I can find about 2 your childhood years." 3 A. Right. 4 Q. So the document is there in front of you. 5 A. Right. 6 Q. Can I ask then that we have SND-4435, please? This is 7 -- can you confirm, HIA105, this is the witness 8 statement you have provided for the Inquiry, which you 9 wish them to consider as your evidence? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. If I can just take you to page SND-4444, which is the 12 last page of that witness statement, and you will see 13 that there's a date there, 27th November 2013, and your 14 signature is under that black box, HIA105. 15 A. Right. 16 Q. And you are happy that your signature is there? 17 A. Yes, yes. 18 Q. Now, HIA105, it is correct that having made that 19 statement to the Inquiry, you recently in preparation 20 for coming to the Inquiry have made a further additional 21 statement. Is that correct? 22 A. That's correct. 23 Q. And if we could look at that. It's page SND-14108. 24 Again this is the short statement that you have added to 25 when you wanted to correct a detail that was in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 earlier statement.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And again that black box at the bottom, your signature</p> <p>4 is underneath that. Is that correct?</p> <p>5 A. That's correct.</p> <p>6 Q. Now can I ask, HIA105, do you remember what your</p> <p>7 earliest memory of being in care was?</p> <p>8 A. Well, my earliest memory really was in nursery, you</p> <p>9 know, with a lot of other children and ...</p> <p>10 Q. Do you recall what age you were?</p> <p>11 A. I would say probably maybe 3, 4.</p> <p>12 Q. You talk in your witness statement -- in your large</p> <p>13 witness statement, if I can call it that, your main</p> <p>14 witness statement, you talk about having [redacted] brothers --</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. -- and [redacted] brother as well.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. And you say that one of your brothers was placed in</p> <p>19 Termonbacca and your other brother was adopted by</p> <p>20 [redacted]. You were placed in care you believe because</p> <p>21 your parents were unmarried.</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you recall did your mother ever visit you or your</p> <p>24 father ever visit you when you were in?</p> <p>25 A. My father never visited me and I never seen him at all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. I think you talk about them in paragraph 25 of your</p> <p>2 statement --</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. -- that you were friendly with a couple of girls.</p> <p>5 "There were other groups in the home and we went to</p> <p>6 secondary school together."</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And you got to see them -- you say you got to see them</p> <p>9 very little, even though you were in the home together.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. What do you mean by that?</p> <p>12 A. Because we were all kept in separate groups, you know,</p> <p>13 and we never mixed. We never went up to see somebody</p> <p>14 else in another group. You stayed in your own group and</p> <p>15 that's where you remained.</p> <p>16 Q. But you mixed with them at school. Is that ...?</p> <p>17 A. At school, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You also say that different groups got together when it</p> <p>19 was time to go to chapel and you were going to chapel</p> <p>20 quite often.</p> <p>21 A. Yes, yes, that's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. It's been suggested that, in fact, in the home you</p> <p>23 didn't go to mass every day, for example. You would</p> <p>24 have gone on Sundays, holy days of obligation and in</p> <p>25 Lent -- during Lent you were encouraged to go every day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 I think my mother came up maybe once or twice to see me</p> <p>2 in nursery.</p> <p>3 Q. And after that, after you moved from nursery to the</p> <p>4 junior and senior section?</p> <p>5 A. Then at a later date when I was about 13 years of age</p> <p>6 I saw her again.</p> <p>7 Q. Well, did you ever have any contact with your brothers?</p> <p>8 There was one brother who was in Termonbacca. Did you</p> <p>9 ever see him during your time in Nazareth House?</p> <p>10 A. Well, he came to the Nazareth House Primary School, so</p> <p>11 he did, but I had no contact with him. Boys were kept</p> <p>12 separate from the girls.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you know he was your brother?</p> <p>14 A. I knew the word "brother" but I didn't understand what</p> <p>15 it meant as such, you know.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you mix with him at school?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. And is it correct, HIA105 -- well, first of all, did you</p> <p>19 have contact with him after you left care?</p> <p>20 A. I had -- I had a bit of contact, yes, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And is it the case that he is sadly now deceased?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What about friendships in Nazareth House? Did you form</p> <p>24 any friendships when you were there?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I had some good friends.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Is that correct?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. What about -- you talk about being at the primary</p> <p>4 school, and do you recall where you went to school after</p> <p>5 primary school?</p> <p>6 A. Yes. I went to St. Bracken's Girls School.</p> <p>7 Q. Have you anything you wish the Inquiry to know about</p> <p>8 your education or ...?</p> <p>9 A. Well, I was lazy at school. I can say that, but I did</p> <p>10 enjoy school. I really did enjoy school.</p> <p>11 Q. Now if I can ask you about clothing in the home and the</p> <p>12 clothing you were provided with. You talk about this at</p> <p>13 paragraph 20 of your witness statement, and you say that</p> <p>14 you were given one pair of pants to wear a week. Sorry.</p> <p>15 Maybe if we could just look at that. That's</p> <p>16 page SND-4440. Paragraph 20 you say:</p> <p>17 "We only got one pair of pants to wear a week, one</p> <p>18 vest, one pair of pants, one dress and one pair of</p> <p>19 socks."</p> <p>20 Did you consider that the clothing you were given</p> <p>21 was adequate?</p> <p>22 A. Not at all. Not at all.</p> <p>23 Q. You do go on to talk about the provision of sanitary</p> <p>24 towels for when you started your periods and you say</p> <p>25 that you were only given two per day, one in the morning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 and one in the evening.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. It has been suggested that girls were given a packet per</p> <p>4 month.</p> <p>5 A. That's untrue, completely untrue.</p> <p>6 Q. What do you want to say about food in the home?</p> <p>7 A. The food in general was good, but my experience of being</p> <p>8 at the nursery wasn't good.</p> <p>9 Q. You talk about an incident at paragraph 4 in your</p> <p>10 witness statement where there were times when you say</p> <p>11 you were sick because you didn't like some of the food</p> <p>12 --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- and that you vomited as a result of that. You</p> <p>15 brought some of the food back up.</p> <p>16 A. I did, yes, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And you say you were made to eat it again.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. I take it that wasn't just what was left in your bowl</p> <p>20 but what you had vomited?</p> <p>21 A. I had vomited up, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. And if you didn't do that, senior girls would slap you.</p> <p>23 Is that correct?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. And if you didn't eat it, you were slapped and if you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 home? You talk about this at paragraph 8 of your</p> <p>2 statement and you say that you used to get bathed once</p> <p>3 a week.</p> <p>4 A. That's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. You say about twelve to fifteen people used the same</p> <p>6 water --</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. -- which was black, and you say you actually developed</p> <p>9 sores all over your body because the water was so dirty</p> <p>10 you believe.</p> <p>11 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. You refer to a particular nun in this paragraph and you</p> <p>13 say she got a floor scrubber and scrubbed you down and</p> <p>14 you were actually bleeding --</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. -- as a result.</p> <p>17 A. Yes. I had sores all over my body.</p> <p>18 Q. And you say that as a result you were nicknamed</p> <p>19 [REDACTED]</p> <p>20 A. That is correct, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you recall who gave you that nickname?</p> <p>22 A. The girls. The girls did.</p> <p>23 Q. To you it has been -- other people who have come to the</p> <p>24 Inquiry have talked about the use of Jeyes Fluid in the</p> <p>25 bath. Is there anything you want to say about that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 did eat it, you were slapped.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember any of the names of these girls who did</p> <p>4 this to you?</p> <p>5 A. I don't. I don't unfortunately, no.</p> <p>6 Q. You also talk at paragraph 21 about being thirsty, and</p> <p>7 you say in that paragraph that you remember having to</p> <p>8 drink rainwater out of the drains and being afraid to</p> <p>9 ask for anything between meal times.</p> <p>10 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>11 Q. I take it from that that you were hungry as well as</p> <p>12 thirsty.</p> <p>13 A. Not really. It was more thirst. I had a terrible</p> <p>14 thirst on me, so I had.</p> <p>15 Q. Can I suggest it would have been possible to go to a tap</p> <p>16 and get water from the tap rather than go to the drains.</p> <p>17 A. Well, sometimes I did when we were allowed to go to the</p> <p>18 toilets. It wasn't always allowed for us to go into the</p> <p>19 toilets, you know, and there was a tap there and</p> <p>20 occasionally I would have drank in there.</p> <p>21 Q. And when you describe drinking rainwater out of the</p> <p>22 drains, how did you do that, HIA105?</p> <p>23 A. I just got down on my knees and I put my mouth to the</p> <p>24 drain pipe and just drank the water from it, so I did.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I then ask you about what bath time was like in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A. No, we -- I have never experienced Jeyes Fluid ever.</p> <p>2 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 19 where you talk about</p> <p>3 bedwetting? First of all, can I confirm that you</p> <p>4 yourself did not wet the bed. Is that right?</p> <p>5 A. No, I didn't, no.</p> <p>6 Q. You do say if you wet your bed, you were punished. You</p> <p>7 were made to stand for your breakfast and at night-time</p> <p>8 you only got half a cup of tea and you were responsible</p> <p>9 for washing the sheets.</p> <p>10 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. You say it was embarrassing for anyone that did wet the</p> <p>12 bed. Can you say in what way it was embarrassing?</p> <p>13 A. Well, they were paraded. You know, basically the fact</p> <p>14 that they had to go down into the dining room and stand</p> <p>15 amongst the rest of us, you know, and were made to stand</p> <p>16 up for breakfast and then in the evening time they got</p> <p>17 a half a cup of tea, and then they would have got abuse</p> <p>18 from the nuns as well, you know, because they did do</p> <p>19 this, you know, and then they were left to wash their</p> <p>20 own sheets.</p> <p>21 Q. Can I ask just going back to -- you talk about washing</p> <p>22 sheets and chores in the home. You say at paragraph 10</p> <p>23 from the age of 5 you were made to clean toilets every</p> <p>24 Saturday. That was your first job in the home --</p> <p>25 A. Yes, that was, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 Q. -- and that involved getting down on your knees and 2 scrubbing the tiled floors with floor brushes. Is that 3 correct? 4 A. Yes, that's correct. 5 Q. You say if it wasn't done to a certain standard, you got 6 beaten. By whom? 7 A. The seniors. 8 Q. And you say sometimes you were hit once. Other times 9 you got quite a few slaps, and you say the face and head 10 were the favourite places to smack you, and you worked 11 in the toilets up until the age of 16. 12 A. Yes, that's correct. 13 Q. But again you don't remember any of the names of these 14 girls. 15 A. No, no, no. 16 Q. And if you finished your chore of cleaning the toilets, 17 at paragraph 11 you go on to say you would have then 18 gone up to the dormitory to help other girls who were 19 your age polish the floors. 20 A. Yes, that's correct, yes. 21 Q. And you say that you were -- you say: 22 "They used to put us down in a straight row and 23 polish left to right and that's the way they told you to 24 clean." 25 Who are "they" that you're talking about, HIA105?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 It's been suggested that when you finished school, you 2 would have come back -- and obviously you would not have 3 come back straight after school if you were cleaning it 4 -- but once you got out of school, were you allowed to 5 play in the playground until 5 o'clock when you were 6 called in? 7 A. That -- that was again at a later stage again when 8 things started to change in the '70s, you know. We were 9 then allowed to go outside and play, but up until that, 10 you know -- I'm talking about 6 and 7 -- we were 11 responsible for cleaning the classroom, so we were. 12 Q. Now can I ask about what special occasions were like in 13 the home? You do talk at paragraph 29 about Christmas 14 and you say: 15 "The only time the nuns were really nice was at 16 Christmas time. We always had a big concert. The nuns 17 would have put a party on for us and they were nice. 18 The nuns could actually be nice, but that lasted only 19 a short time." 20 What are your recollections of Christmas in the 21 home? 22 A. Well, Christmas was lovely. It was. There was just 23 a lovely atmosphere in the home and the nuns were 24 smiling and happy and they seemed to be nicer, a lot 25 nicer to us at that -- at that time, you know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 A. Well, one person would have been -- SND109 was one of 2 the main -- she was the main senior, you know. She was 3 just the nun's favourite girl and was left to do a lot 4 of things on her own in her own way and was allowed to. 5 Q. You describe this girl as being strict and quite wicked 6 -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- and that's -- she was the only older girl that you 9 have actually named. Is that correct? 10 A. Yes. That's the only one that I can really remember. 11 Q. In paragraph 22 of your statement you say that in 12 addition to the chores that you had to do in the home 13 you were also expected to clean the primary school. 14 A. Yes, after school when I was in primary school we then 15 had to clean the classroom, you know, and that would be 16 to dust it and to sweep the floor and polish it, and 17 that was part of our job every day after school as soon 18 as school was over. 19 Q. And you remember doing this with another girl. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. She was another home girl, was she? 22 A. She was, yes. 23 Q. And one of the nuns would have then inspected your work. 24 A. That's correct, yes. 25 Q. Now can I just ask about daily routine in the home?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you ever remember getting any presents at Christmas? 2 A. I do, yes, yes. We got the one present, so we did. 3 Q. Can you give examples of what you might have got? 4 A. Well, I can always remember one present I got was Snakes 5 & Ladders and then on another -- another occasion -- 6 a selection box as well, and then on another occasion 7 getting a nightgown and again a selection box, so I do. 8 Q. And what about Hallowe'en? Do you have any 9 recollections of Hallowe'en? 10 A. Well, again they held a party for Hallowe'en, so they 11 did, and there were fireworks and I was absolutely 12 petrified of them. You know, I would just hide out of 13 the road, but there was a party for Hallowe'en. 14 Q. In your statement you talk about occasions when you were 15 ill and you talk at paragraph 27 about an occasion when 16 you were very sick. Can you recollect what was wrong 17 with you? 18 A. It was my throat and I had a fever as well too and they 19 had -- I think it was unheard of them sending for 20 a doctor, and a doctor came in to see me and I just 21 remember SR9 bringing me up hot cups of Ribena and 22 I used to have medication as well, too as well. I had 23 to take these big capsules. 24 Q. But you remember this particular nun being kind to you 25 during your illness?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And in that statement you talk about being under a lot</p> <p>3 of stress at Christmas, because you used to sing a lot</p> <p>4 and play the piano in a band. Can I ask you about music</p> <p>5 in the home? Was it a large part of the home life?</p> <p>6 A. It was very much so. Music was very, very, very to the</p> <p>7 fore. We had choirs and bands and all that -- all --</p> <p>8 you know, all music orientated. It was very music</p> <p>9 orientated, the convent, so it was.</p> <p>10 Q. You talk at paragraph 17 about you've good memories of</p> <p>11 going swimming and singing and the nuns were very into</p> <p>12 music, that is in choirs and bands. Then you add:</p> <p>13 "But it was a very stressful time as well, because</p> <p>14 the standard they expected was so high."</p> <p>15 A. So high, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you -- did you ever go on a trip with either the</p> <p>17 choir or the band?</p> <p>18 A. I did. I went on one trip. It was to Loch Lomond.</p> <p>19 Q. In Scotland?</p> <p>20 A. In Scotland, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And was that enjoyable?</p> <p>22 A. It was. It was.</p> <p>23 Q. And do you recollect there were other girls who might</p> <p>24 have gone on other tours?</p> <p>25 A. Oh, yes, there was quite -- quite a few tours that --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 Q. But it was an annual thing rather than a regular thing?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And what about -- can I ask about -- you talked about</p> <p>4 presents you got at Christmas. Can I ask you about</p> <p>5 gifts and toys generally? Were there toys in the home?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, there was toys in the home, but some of the toys</p> <p>7 were kept in a cupboard and some were -- were left for</p> <p>8 us to play with, you know.</p> <p>9 Q. What toys were kept in the cupboard?</p> <p>10 A. Usually the very good dolls and, you know, things like</p> <p>11 that.</p> <p>12 Q. Were they ever brought out of the cupboard?</p> <p>13 A. Oh, yes. There would have been occasions when we would</p> <p>14 have had maybe the Bishop of Derry coming up or some</p> <p>15 other visitors that would have come up, and everything</p> <p>16 was put on show and we had to look happy and smiling and</p> <p>17 ...</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Can you recollect celebrating your birthday in</p> <p>19 the home at all?</p> <p>20 A. No, I never did. Never did, no.</p> <p>21 Q. There was no party or card or present for your birthday?</p> <p>22 A. No, absolutely nothing, nothing.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you ever see anyone from Social Services visit the</p> <p>24 home, HIA105?</p> <p>25 A. No, I never did.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 that were on regularly, you know.</p> <p>2 Q. Can I ask about pocket money? Was pocket money</p> <p>3 a regular feature in the home?</p> <p>4 A. No, it wasn't a regular feature. Maybe once in a blue</p> <p>5 moon you might have got thruppence, you know, and I was</p> <p>6 at a very early age, and then it all stopped completely,</p> <p>7 you know, and then there wasn't any pocket money, but</p> <p>8 I remember getting thruppence.</p> <p>9 Q. And what would you have spent that on?</p> <p>10 A. Well, there was a tuck shop within the convent that was</p> <p>11 for the school. So there was sweets. You know, we were</p> <p>12 able to buy sweets.</p> <p>13 Q. And what about day trips? Did you ever go on any day</p> <p>14 trips?</p> <p>15 A. Well, once a year they would have ran a day trip maybe</p> <p>16 to the zoo or somewhere like that, you know, to the</p> <p>17 beach we all went on.</p> <p>18 Q. And were they enjoyable?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, they were, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. What about any trips to the cinema, or some people have</p> <p>21 suggested there was a trip to Butlins?</p> <p>22 A. Well, maybe at Christmas time in Derry the various</p> <p>23 cinemas, etc, and like the fire station would have held</p> <p>24 a special party or we would have been treated to going</p> <p>25 to the cinema, you know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 Q. Or what about any visits by senior nuns?</p> <p>2 A. No, no.</p> <p>3 Q. You talk about -- at paragraph 26 you talk about the</p> <p>4 bishop visiting at Christmas and this -- you have just</p> <p>5 indicated the nice toys were brought out on this</p> <p>6 occasion. What about anybody else coming to visit? Do</p> <p>7 you ever remember anybody other than the bishop?</p> <p>8 A. Well, I remember coming up, but then we were</p> <p>9 involved in the canvassing. You know, we sent out all</p> <p>10 the letters, etc, to the public. I remember him coming</p> <p>11 out and he brought sweets up with him, so he did, you</p> <p>12 know, but there were other people. I don't know who</p> <p>13 they were, you know.</p> <p>14 Q. It's been suggested that if visitors did come to the</p> <p>15 home, they would have seen the nuns in the parlour at</p> <p>16 the front of the building where the girls would have</p> <p>17 been --</p> <p>18 A. At the back.</p> <p>19 Q. -- at the back.</p> <p>20 A. That's right. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. HIA105, if I might now turn to some of the specific</p> <p>22 allegations you make, and one in particular, which is at</p> <p>23 paragraph 5 of your witness statement, and it is also --</p> <p>24 you deal with this also in your additional witness</p> <p>25 statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 Now you talk about in this paragraph how you say: 2 "There was a regular hygiene inspection every 3 Saturday when we were brought into the nun's room for 4 our nails, hair and ears to be checked." 5 Was that just when you were in the nursery or was 6 that at a later stage? 7 A. Well, they still continued on, although it was done when 8 we came out of the bath at -- you know, when I was out 9 of nursery, where your ears were checked and your nails, 10 etc, but it was regularly done in the nursery now. It 11 was every Saturday. 12 Q. And when you're talking about this incident, you're 13 talking about when you were in the nursery? 14 A. Yes, that's correct. 15 Q. So you say you were brought into the nun's room. You 16 don't remember this particular nun's name -- 17 A. No. 18 Q. -- but that she had her own room within the nursery. 19 A. Yes, that's right. 20 Q. And you talk about -- you describe the room, that there 21 was a sink and a glass cabinet with medicines, and you 22 remember having to queue outside the room and being 23 brought in one at a time and being seen by this nun -- 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. -- and you describe her as stocky and appearing tall,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 Q. Now you talk about a nun in this paragraph who you say 2 arrived a few months before you left the home in 1976 3 and you name her. You say that you remained in contact 4 with her. Can I ask about that contact with this 5 particular nun after you left the home? 6 A. Yes. I became friendly with her when I had a wedding to 7 go to. One of the girls in the convent was getting 8 married. So I got invited to the wedding and she was at 9 the wedding, so she was, and we sort of struck up 10 a friendship, and I got on very well with her brother 11 and he actually gave me a beautiful dog to take home 12 with me, you know. 13 Q. So this contact then went on for a number of years? 14 A. Yes, it did, yes. 15 Q. You say in that statement that around 2003 or 2004 you 16 told her about the incident that had happened to you 17 involving the nun in the nursery. 18 A. Yes, I did, yes. 19 Q. You told her -- what were the circumstances of you 20 telling her about that? 21 A. I was just in a very, very low mood that day, and I was 22 talking to her on the phone, and I just came out with 23 it. I just told her and she told me she would have to 24 report it immediately, you know, which she did and got 25 back to me in twenty minutes or so to say that it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 but you recall in particular one occasion when she 2 brought you into the room and asked -- told you to lie 3 on the floor. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. You did this. She then lifted her habit and straddled 6 you. You describe in that paragraph what she asked you 7 to do and you say that essentially, without going into 8 the details, you were asked to lick her -- lick her 9 private parts essentially. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. You did that and you say you were absolutely terrified. 12 It didn't seem to last for very long. You don't 13 remember her saying anything or making any noise, and 14 then in your original statement you said you thought you 15 were between 3 and 4 when it happened -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- but you since corrected that to say you think you 18 were between 4 to 5. Now can I ask why you think you 19 were that bit older? 20 A. Because it was a period of time when I actually moved 21 down to the senior section, not very long, you know. It 22 was quite a short time after what happened. So I would 23 have been 5 when I moved down to the junior section. 24 Q. So that's how you place it at that age then? 25 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 such and such and such a nun that did it. 2 Q. And you talk about that in your statement. She 3 suggested that it may have been a nun who was there on 4 summer relief. 5 A. Yes, that's correct, yes. 6 Q. She -- you say that she has since denied she had that 7 conversation with you, and what were the circumstances 8 of her denying that you had told her this? 9 A. She just said to me that she would have remembered if 10 something like that had been said to her, but again I've 11 sworn on the bible and I would swear on the bible again 12 that this conversation did take place, you know. 13 Q. And the only way that you -- sorry. Have you had 14 contact with her since? Are you still in contact with 15 her? 16 A. No, I'm not, no. 17 Q. If we can move on then to paragraph 7, and I think 18 you've given some evidence about this already. You say 19 that the junior section wasn't pleasant, that the senior 20 girls have a lot to answer for because of the amount of 21 cruelty they showed towards the juniors. You describe 22 it as dreadful. You say they were very violent and 23 would have beaten you and they would even have been 24 violent when a nun was standing nearby, but you say the 25 nuns never said anything.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 A. No, no.</p> <p>2 Q. You go on to describe about getting your hair washed in</p> <p>3 metal bath tubs. Two nuns, who you named, watched while</p> <p>4 the seniors washed your hair. There was one tub to wash</p> <p>5 in and one tub to rinse in. Can I just ask: were these</p> <p>6 tubs outside? Is that correct?</p> <p>7 A. Well, they were inside in the winter time, but then they</p> <p>8 brought them outside in the summer time.</p> <p>9 Q. And you said that you would always pray you wouldn't</p> <p>10 have any nits in your hair, but they were hard to avoid,</p> <p>11 because there were so many of you in the home. You say</p> <p>12 you could see them floating in the water, and if you</p> <p>13 didn't put your head in the tub the way the senior girls</p> <p>14 wanted you to, they would slap you. After your hair was</p> <p>15 washed, it was rinsed and dried with a towel; then</p> <p>16 combed with a fine metal comb. The senior girls dug the</p> <p>17 comb into your scalp so hard that it bled and sores</p> <p>18 formed. You say to this day your scalp is very</p> <p>19 sensitive.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You say you don't even brush your hair.</p> <p>22 A. Brush it? No.</p> <p>23 Q. You just use your fingers.</p> <p>24 A. I just use my fingers.</p> <p>25 Q. You say that was every Saturday that occurred and that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Q. And you say that you take refuge in the chapel, because</p> <p>2 you felt that nobody could touch you there?</p> <p>3 A. That's right.</p> <p>4 Q. And you said you remember spending hours there sitting</p> <p>5 crying and looking at statues of Baby Jesus and</p> <p>6 thinking, "How could this happen?" and listening to the</p> <p>7 nuns praying, knowing as soon as their prayers ended</p> <p>8 they would come out and the cruelty would continue.</p> <p>9 A. That's correct.</p> <p>10 Q. That's essentially your memory of the atmosphere in the</p> <p>11 home.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Is that fair?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. You also talk about another incident involving the same</p> <p>16 nun that you refer to handing out the pants. You say</p> <p>17 that she accused you of stealing money and you think</p> <p>18 that you were suspected because of a prior incident when</p> <p>19 you were 6.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. This is paragraph 14. You said she accused you of</p> <p>22 stealing money from another girl that you shared</p> <p>23 a dormitory with. What age were you at this stage,</p> <p>24 HIA105? Do you remember?</p> <p>25 A. I would have been round about 8 or 9.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 the senior girls were fond of giving you whacks as you</p> <p>2 describe them --</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. -- often with the nuns looking on.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. You do talk at paragraph 13 about -- you say that the</p> <p>7 seniors seemed to have permission to do what they did to</p> <p>8 you by the nuns, and you also describe the nuns as being</p> <p>9 cruel and say that they mentally abused you and put you</p> <p>10 down and made you feel dirty and worthless, and you talk</p> <p>11 about a particular nun who would hand out one pair of</p> <p>12 pants per week, and she would hand them out in front of</p> <p>13 everyone by calling out your name, and if the clothing</p> <p>14 had stains that couldn't be removed, you would be</p> <p>15 chastised in front of everyone.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You say as a result of this if anyone had an accident,</p> <p>18 they would wash them out and hang them up to dry on the</p> <p>19 bed beside -- the chair beside their beds, and you tried</p> <p>20 to dry them on the radiator, but if another nun saw them</p> <p>21 there, she threatened to take them away.</p> <p>22 A. Right.</p> <p>23 Q. And you talk about being constantly told that you were</p> <p>24 lucky to be there, as no-one else wanted you.</p> <p>25 A. That's right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 Q. And she made you stand while she hit your legs with</p> <p>2 a cane until you said yes, you did steal the money.</p> <p>3 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. You recollect that your legs were bruised afterwards.</p> <p>5 A. Yes, that's right.</p> <p>6 Q. You also talk in paragraph 15 about being beaten by</p> <p>7 a different nun, and you say that she beat you with</p> <p>8 a huge bunch of keys. She would come over and bang you</p> <p>9 on the head with a bunch of keys and that that was</p> <p>10 a routine form of punishment that she used.</p> <p>11 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>12 Q. You also talk about this -- even the little ones of 5 or</p> <p>13 6 were subjected to this punishment and you were also</p> <p>14 pulled by the ear.</p> <p>15 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You do talk about an incident at primary school where</p> <p>17 a nun didn't believe you when you lost your spelling</p> <p>18 book and being beaten with three metal rulers on the</p> <p>19 hand.</p> <p>20 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Can I just check: was that the same nun who you refer to</p> <p>22 beating people with a bunch of keys?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And after this incident where she struck you with the</p> <p>25 rulers you say that she called you back in and gave you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 sweets.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. And have you any explanation or under... -- what is your</p> <p>4 understanding of why she did that?</p> <p>5 A. I think she felt really, really, really bad, you know,</p> <p>6 because it was so sore, three metal rulers on the hand,</p> <p>7 you know, and I wouldn't cry. I just bit into my wrist</p> <p>8 instead, you know.</p> <p>9 Q. You talk about an occasion when you were given sandals</p> <p>10 that were too small for your feet.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Can you say how small they were?</p> <p>13 A. I would guess round about two to three sizes too small.</p> <p>14 Q. And this -- at paragraph 21 you talk about this, and did</p> <p>15 you complain about the fact that these were too small?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. I could hardly walk. I could hardly walk with the</p> <p>17 sandals.</p> <p>18 Q. You talk about they were too small for you and your toes</p> <p>19 became curled up.</p> <p>20 A. Curled up, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Were they open-toed sandals or ...?</p> <p>22 A. Closed in. They were closed, closed sandals.</p> <p>23 Q. You said that you complained to a particular nun that</p> <p>24 your feet were sore, but she ignored you and told you to</p> <p>25 wear them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 paragraph 23 -- you talk about a particular day in that</p> <p>2 paragraph. First of all, you say there were many</p> <p>3 beatings in the home and you saw terrible things</p> <p>4 happening to other girls, and you talk about one girl</p> <p>5 who was hit on the forehead with a brick by a nun whom</p> <p>6 you name. You don't know why she was hit, but you think</p> <p>7 she had called the soldiers a name or something.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. First of all, can I ask you: did you actually see that</p> <p>10 happen, HIA105?</p> <p>11 A. I did, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And can you recollect anything about her? Was she</p> <p>13 injured?</p> <p>14 A. She was injured, yes. There was blood coming down from</p> <p>15 her head, so there was, because the brick was actually</p> <p>16 put to the forehead, so it was, and it was bleeding.</p> <p>17 Q. And can you say -- you say the brick was put to the</p> <p>18 forehead. Was there any degree of force used or not?</p> <p>19 A. Oh, yes. She was very angry. The nun was very, very,</p> <p>20 very, very angry.</p> <p>21 Q. You also talk about -- paragraph 18, you talk about</p> <p>22 there having been a prowler in the home.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Now you say that you weren't a good sleeper and you</p> <p>25 still don't sleep very well today --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Eventually because of the pain you were suffering you</p> <p>3 were sent to Altnagelvin Hospital --</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. -- and you believe one of the seniors took you to the</p> <p>6 hospital.</p> <p>7 A. Yes, that's right.</p> <p>8 Q. And can you -- can you recollect anything else about</p> <p>9 that incident, about the treatment that you got, for</p> <p>10 example?</p> <p>11 A. I just remember a doctor or a consultant examining my</p> <p>12 feet, you know. The pain was actually coming from the</p> <p>13 toes and from the back of my heels and I just remember</p> <p>14 hearing the word "an operation", you know.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you ever receive an operation?</p> <p>16 A. No, I didn't, no.</p> <p>17 Q. And did -- did the feet eventually improve?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. Well, and had a lot to do with that,</p> <p>19 because they got my feet measured.</p> <p>20 Q. I will come on to talk about that.</p> <p>21 A. Sorry.</p> <p>22 Q. No, it's nothing to apologise for, but and</p> <p>23 were people you spent summers with. Is that right?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Now can I just also ask about -- you say at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. -- and say that part of the reason for that is that you</p> <p>3 were afraid to go to sleep at night because there was</p> <p>4 a prowler in the home.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. You say you actually saw him when you were in the</p> <p>7 nursery --</p> <p>8 A. I did, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. -- and that you give a description of him there, and you</p> <p>10 say that you saw him lift one of the girls who slept</p> <p>11 opposite you in the nursery out of her bed.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. You at that stage were trying to close your eyes and</p> <p>14 look at the same time, and you saw him look at you and</p> <p>15 thought you were going to be next, and as soon as he</p> <p>16 went out you screamed loudly.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You say some of the seniors came down and you told them</p> <p>19 that there was a man there just a minute ago and lifted</p> <p>20 a girl out of bed, although you don't remember who that</p> <p>21 child was. You were told to shut up and go back to</p> <p>22 sleep and that it was your imagination.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I just ask: is it possible it was your imagination,</p> <p>25 HIA105?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 A. No, no. I seen him very, very, very clearly, very 2 clearly. 3 Q. And you continue that you think this prowler got into 4 the house right up until you left in '76. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. You talk about a secret passage in the convent. 7 You think that's how he got in and out. Can I just ask 8 you what you mean by "a secret passage"?</p> <p>9 A. Well, we called it the secret passage, but what it was 10 was where all the pipes all ran down, you know, but 11 there was two exits into it, you know. You could come 12 in from outside through the door or you could come in -- 13 come into the convent at the other door. It led into 14 the convent right into the children's section, so it 15 did. 16 Q. From what you have since learned you think that this 17 might have been someone who had worked there as a 18 janitor some years previously.</p> <p>19 A. Well, that's what I heard. I had heard that he had 20 worked there as a janitor and had been sacked and this 21 was his way of getting back at the nuns, but he took it 22 out on the children. 23 Q. You talk about whenever you were about 8 or 9 the Mother 24 Superior took this -- 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 head, you know. 2 Q. Can I ask, HIA105, is it possible you might have heard 3 some of the nuns walking? 4 A. No, they were all in bed. I mean, I'm talking about 5 times that would have been 3.00 and 4.00 and 5.00 in the 6 morning, you know, because I only felt contented to go 7 to sleep when the nuns got up. I could hear them 8 getting up round about 5.30, 6.00, you know. 9 Q. Can I then just say -- take you on to -- you talked 10 there about and , who were a family -- 11 a couple who had children, and you went and spent 12 summers with them. Is that correct? 13 A. Yes, I did. 14 Q. And you talk about this in paragraph 24, but you say 15 that before you went -- any of you went to any of these 16 placements you were warned by the nuns not to talk about 17 anything that went on at the home. 18 A. That's correct, yes. 19 Q. Can I ask how did this come about? Were you told this 20 individually before you went or was there a group 21 discussion? 22 A. No, individually. Individually as you were going out 23 that day, you know, you would have been warned to say 24 absolutely nothing that went on. 25 Q. Now you describe the couple that you went to stay with Page 35</p>
<p>1 Q. -- account about a prowler being in the home seriously, 2 and you say that there was one occasion when there was 3 a girl who you name and who you describe as one of the 4 nun's pets, that this prowler tried to lift her. She 5 screamed and one of the nuns came running in, but he had 6 gone. 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. I mean, did you witness that or was this something you 9 were told? 10 A. No, I didn't witness it. I just heard the screams 11 and -- and then the girl who it happened to had jumped 12 over -- there was like a dividing between two 13 dormitories. She jumped over the screen like, so she 14 did, and she was screaming, and then the next thing 15 I knew one of the nuns came running in. 16 Q. And, in fact, the military police were called that 17 night. 18 A. Military police arrived up, yes, but they never got him. 19 Q. You say that subsequent to this you actually did hear 20 him prowling about the home at night. 21 A. I used to, yes, because I never slept at night-time, and 22 I used to -- we had wooden floors. So I could hear 23 walking around through the night, you know. I used to 24 sleep with one eye open -- well, not sleep, but I kept 25 one eye closed and one eye open with the covers over my Page 34</p>	<p>1 as beautiful people -- 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. -- and you said it was heaven being with them, living 4 a normal life like ordinary children, and they were very 5 good to you. They took you to Germany and to Italy on 6 holiday with them -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- and they actually wanted to adopt you, but your 9 mother said "No" to that. 10 A. That's correct. That's correct. 11 Q. And you have very good memories of being with them. 12 A. Yes, wonderful memories, yes. 13 Q. And you didn't want to go back to the home -- 14 A. No. I never, never did. 15 Q. -- but because of the warning that you were given, you 16 didn't feel you could explain to them why you didn't 17 want to go back. Is that correct? 18 A. That's right. I never -- I never -- I was afraid to 19 say, like, because I was warned not to say. 20 Q. And ultimately you ended up living with them -- isn't 21 that correct -- 22 A. I did, yes. 23 Q. -- after you left care? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. I'll come back to that shortly. Certainly you have very Page 36</p>

<p>1 good memories of your placement with these people.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, wonderful.</p> <p>3 Q. And apart from those good memories you describe some</p> <p>4 other -- I mean, you have already described in your</p> <p>5 evidence this morning some positive things about your</p> <p>6 time in care, about the choir and the band and</p> <p>7 Christmas.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. You also talk about a senior girl who you do remember</p> <p>10 being good to you called -- well, you give her name in</p> <p>11 paragraph 12. You say that she took you shopping and</p> <p>12 bought you an ice lolly --</p> <p>13 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- and that was an incident of kindness that you</p> <p>15 recollect.</p> <p>16 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You also talk about having good teachers at the primary</p> <p>18 school --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- and being kind.</p> <p>21 Now you do say and you have indicated that there</p> <p>22 were big changes went on in Nazareth House in the early</p> <p>23 '70s, and you talk about this in paragraph 30 of your</p> <p>24 statement, if I can just take you to that.</p> <p>25 You say you never really became a senior and the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 changes, you were still made to feel worthless.</p> <p>2 A. Yes. They still made you feel very unwanted, worthless,</p> <p>3 no sense of belonging and "Just be grateful that you're</p> <p>4 here", you know, just -- and sometimes you felt -- they</p> <p>5 made you feel dirty, you know, just by things they would</p> <p>6 say to you, you know; made you feel very worthless.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you give an example at all, HIA105, of what kind of</p> <p>8 things they might have said to you that made you feel</p> <p>9 that way?</p> <p>10 A. Well, the example -- one example we talked about there</p> <p>11 was about the pants, and then about you as a person,</p> <p>12 an individual person, should it be your education, your</p> <p>13 brain, you know, that you were really stupid, very</p> <p>14 stupid, you know. It wasn't just a light remark. It</p> <p>15 was a meant -- it was meant to -- to hurt you, you know.</p> <p>16 Q. Could I ask what preparation there was for you leaving</p> <p>17 care?</p> <p>18 A. None whatsoever. I had one hour's notice to say to get</p> <p>19 my things together, that I was leaving and going to my</p> <p>20 mother.</p> <p>21 Q. And what did you do when you were told this?</p> <p>22 A. I ran into the bathroom and I locked myself in, because</p> <p>23 I didn't want to leave my friends and truthfully</p> <p>24 I didn't want to go to my mother either, because I don't</p> <p>25 think my mother wanted me, you know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 term seemed to die out, and that the home went through</p> <p>2 big changes when you were about 11 or 12. Dormitories</p> <p>3 were done away with and they were made into flats.</p> <p>4 There were roughly about 20 girls in each flat. You</p> <p>5 were in a group that was supervised by one of the nuns.</p> <p>6 The seniors as a term disappeared and you say the</p> <p>7 beatings stopped.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. So this is beatings by the senior girls?</p> <p>10 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. And how did the nuns behave after this time?</p> <p>12 A. Well, there was no beatings. I don't recall any</p> <p>13 beatings then at that stage. I think it changed as</p> <p>14 well.</p> <p>15 Q. You also say the layout changed and you got proper beds</p> <p>16 and there were carpet on the floors --</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. -- wallpaper, curtains --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- and there was no more floor polishing. You didn't</p> <p>21 have to get down on your hands and knees. You still had</p> <p>22 a chore of cleaning the bathrooms, but you could use</p> <p>23 a mop instead of a scrubbing brush.</p> <p>24 A. Scrubbing brush, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. At the end of that paragraph you say despite these</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 Q. She hadn't visited you very often when you were --</p> <p>2 A. No, no, no. She had only ever been up in the convent to</p> <p>3 see me about three times.</p> <p>4 Q. So in any event you were -- did you go to live with your</p> <p>5 mother in [REDACTED]?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. You weren't there for very long. Is that correct?</p> <p>8 A. A very short time.</p> <p>9 Q. You then moved to live with an aunt. Your mother took</p> <p>10 you to live with an aunt.</p> <p>11 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And that didn't work out either.</p> <p>13 A. No, no.</p> <p>14 Q. So is it correct that you did go -- at this stage the</p> <p>15 family that you had spent your summers with were now</p> <p>16 living in England.</p> <p>17 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. And they took you for the summer.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And you were what age? About 16 at this stage?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I was, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. And is it correct that you just stayed on with them and</p> <p>23 didn't come back?</p> <p>24 A. I didn't come back. I stayed with them, so I did.</p> <p>25 Q. And they effectively became your family.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

1 **A. Yes, they did.**
 2 Q. And the husband has now died, but you are still in
 3 contact with his wife.
 4 **A. Oh, I am, yes, indeed.**
 5 Q. And you describe your life after care in paragraphs 32
 6 through to 38 of your witness statement, and you say
 7 that again you didn't feel -- you felt stupid and
 8 worthless. You didn't feel you belonged anywhere and
 9 that you had no identity. You have always felt like
 10 an outsider.
 11 You said that you yourself have never married --
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. -- and part of the reason for that is that you didn't
 14 want to have children -- is that correct, HIA105 --
 15 **A. Yes, yes.**
 16 Q. -- because you promised God when you were a little girl
 17 you would never have children:
 18 "I remember praying to God, 'Please don't let me
 19 have children, because I couldn't see them going through
 20 the pain and hurt that I have suffered'. "
 21 You talk about having a few good friends.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. You have suffered from depression and you have
 24 self-harmed --
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. -- and you are undergoing treatment and you receive
 2 medication --
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. -- for this.
 5 **A. That's right.**
 6 Q. Your mother died at quite a young age and you never met
 7 your father. You do have one surviving brother. Is
 8 that correct?
 9 **A. I do, yes.**
 10 Q. And you are in contact with him?
 11 **A. I am, yes.**
 12 Q. You say that you never talked about the abuse until you
 13 were in your 40s.
 14 **A. That's correct.**
 15 Q. Can I ask: you did go -- you did attend a reunion --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- at Nazareth House. Was this one occasion?
 18 **A. One occasion, yes.**
 19 Q. Why did you go back, HIA105?
 20 **A. I desperately wanted to see my friends that I had made**
 21 **in the convent, you know, and that was an opportunity**
 22 **to -- to meet them again, you know, after leaving the**
 23 **convent, you know.**
 24 Q. And how did -- how did that reunion go?
 25 **A. It was a bit of a disaster, because it was called the**

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1 **"Old Girls' Reunion". So it was a case of meeting up**
 2 **with all the seniors. They were all there. So there**
 3 **was no contact made with them whatsoever. We just**
 4 **stayed in our wee group and they stayed in their group,**
 5 **you know. So there was a -- again I went into the**
 6 **chapel and sat in the chapel for a couple of hours, you**
 7 **know. It was great to see my friends that were there,**
 8 **you know. That's really why I wanted to go and see**
 9 **them, because I hadn't seen them in years, you know, but**
 10 **it was a disaster. In fact, I was really quite ill**
 11 **afterwards. I had to take about a month off work it**
 12 **affected me that much, so it did.**
 13 Q. Can I ask -- you in 2010 actually reported matters to
 14 the police --
 15 **A. That's correct.**
 16 Q. -- at that point in time. Can I ask, HIA105, today how
 17 do you feel about those who cared for you today? What's
 18 your feelings towards them today?
 19 **A. I feel -- I just feel so worthless. They made you feel**
 20 **bad. They showed no love and no care really at the end**
 21 **of the day and I blame them for what has happened in my**
 22 **life, you know, because I think if things were**
 23 **different, I could have turned out in another way, you**
 24 **know.**
 25 Q. HIA105, you know that this Inquiry has to make

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1 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about
 2 a potential apology, or some form of appropriate
 3 memorial or tribute, or whether some form of redress is
 4 appropriate. Is there anything you would like to say to
 5 the Inquiry about that, what your views are?
 6 **A. Well, my views are there is a very big apology due and**
 7 **I don't even know whether that will put it right,**
 8 **because it's left its mark, you know. It's like the**
 9 **Inquiry, you know. I would love to say it will bring**
 10 **a closure to how I feel, but I've just been through so**
 11 **much, and it's carried through my life and it has**
 12 **affected me in so many ways, you know. An apology --**
 13 **well, I think they have already made an apology, but**
 14 **it's -- it doesn't hit home, you know, because these**
 15 **were holy people and the cruelty was just unbelievable,**
 16 **you know, for people that sat and prayed, and I listened**
 17 **to them praying and them coming out and doing what they**
 18 **did. You know, I find it hard to forgive. I find it**
 19 **hard to forgive.**
 20 Q. HIA105, thank you for what you've told us, but is there
 21 just anything else you feel you haven't had the
 22 opportunity to say? Now would be the time to say it.
 23 **A. No. That's fine. That's fine.**
 24 Q. If you just stay there, the Panel members may have some
 25 questions for you.

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<p>1 A. Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>2 Questions from THE PANEL</p> <p>3 MS DOHERTY: HIA105, thank you very much for coming today</p> <p>4 and your testimony. I just wonder about the time when</p> <p>5 the senior girls were in charge. How many nuns -- can</p> <p>6 you remember how many nuns were looking after you at</p> <p>7 that ...?</p> <p>8 A. We only had three nuns. So there was three groups. So</p> <p>9 there was three nuns that were in charge of each group.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay, and when they -- were the senior girls left a lot</p> <p>11 in charge by themselves?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, yes, they were, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Can I just ask when things changed when you were about</p> <p>14 11/12, did different nuns come in? Was it the same</p> <p>15 three nuns?</p> <p>16 A. No, it was the same three.</p> <p>17 Q. The same three nuns --</p> <p>18 A. The same three.</p> <p>19 Q. -- but things changed in terms of their -- in terms of</p> <p>20 how things were organised but also their attitudes</p> <p>21 a bit?</p> <p>22 A. Maybe a little bit, maybe a little bit, but they still</p> <p>23 would have the comments of putting you down and making</p> <p>24 you feel -- you know, you had a fear factor about them.</p> <p>25 There was a fear factor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN: Now, HIA394, do you wish to make an oath or make</p> <p>2 an affirmation? They have the same legal effect. It's</p> <p>3 a matter for to you to choose.</p> <p>4 A. I'd like to make an oath, please.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN: Very well.</p> <p>6 HIA 394 (sworn)</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.</p> <p>8 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>9 MR AIKEN: HIA394, we were talking about the issue of</p> <p>10 anonymity and you have had the opportunity to reflect on</p> <p>11 whether you wish to have your details published in terms</p> <p>12 of your name and information that would identify you.</p> <p>13 Can you confirm for the Inquiry that you don't want that</p> <p>14 to happen?</p> <p>15 A. No, I don't want that to happen.</p> <p>16 Q. So, to be clear, nothing that would identify you,</p> <p>17 including your name and any details that we talk about</p> <p>18 now this morning, should be published.</p> <p>19 A. Yes. I agree with that.</p> <p>20 Q. Now you were born in --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. -- and that makes you 60 at present.</p> <p>23 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. The events that we're going to talk about in the main</p> <p>25 happened in the 1960s.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 Q. Thanks very much.</p> <p>2 A. No problem.</p> <p>3 MR LANE: Nothing else. Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 A. Thank you.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for coming, HIA105. That's</p> <p>6 all we need to ask you this morning.</p> <p>7 A. Thank you.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN: Yes. If you'd like to leave now.</p> <p>9 A. Oh, right. Thank you.</p> <p>10 (Witness withdrew)</p> <p>11 MS SMITH: Chairman, I wonder if it's appropriate to take</p> <p>12 a short break so we can get ready for the next witness.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 11.35. We will sit again at 11.35, ladies</p> <p>14 and gentlemen.</p> <p>15 (11.25 am)</p> <p>16 (Short break)</p> <p>17 (11.35 am)</p> <p>18 WITNESS HIA394 (called)</p> <p>19 MR AIKEN: Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next</p> <p>20 witness is HIA394. This is HIA394 or HIA394, as I'm</p> <p>21 going to call her this morning, and, as I was just</p> <p>22 discussing with you, HIA394, the Inquiry has given you,</p> <p>23 like other witnesses, anonymity, and I'll ask you in due</p> <p>24 course, after the Chairman deals with the issue of the</p> <p>25 oath, about what you want to do about that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. I'm going to bring up on the screen a copy of your</p> <p>3 witness statement. That's at SND-11565. As we were</p> <p>4 discussing beforehand, you have a copy of the witness</p> <p>5 statement that has the greyed version --</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- and you can therefore see what's underneath the</p> <p>8 numbers that appear on the screen.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm that this document that</p> <p>11 you're looking at, the first page of it matches the hard</p> <p>12 copy version that you have with you?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>14 Q. And if we can just go to the end of the statement, which</p> <p>15 is SND-11571, and if I can just ask you to confirm again</p> <p>16 that this matches the hard copy version that you have.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Can I ask you to confirm that you have signed this</p> <p>19 witness statement on the hard copy that you're looking</p> <p>20 at --</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I've signed it.</p> <p>22 Q. -- and that you wish to adopt the content of that</p> <p>23 statement as your evidence before the Inquiry?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Now the Inquiry appreciates that anyone coming to give</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

1 evidence, that's a difficult thing to deal with, and if
 2 at any stage you need some time -- or we've got water
 3 there that's in front of you -- all you have to do is
 4 say and the Inquiry will deal with that.
 5 **A. Okay. Thank you.**
 6 Q. Now you describe, if we go back, please, to SND-11565,
 7 that you were one of [redacted] children.
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. You set out in paragraph 2 -- it won't appear on the
 10 screen -- the names of the [redacted] other brothers and
 11 sisters that you have, and you were living with your mum
 12 in a house in Omagh.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. I want to ask you just a little bit about what life was
 15 like before you went to Bishop Street --
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. -- in Londonderry, which you describe as being in and
 18 around 1961/62.
 19 **A. Right.**
 20 Q. So can you describe for the Inquiry what life was like
 21 in your home in Omagh?
 22 **A. Well, it wasn't exactly very easy, because there was**
 23 **a lot of unemployment and my father had to work in**
 24 **England. We lived in -- sort of with the in-laws in two**
 25 **rooms above a pub. It was called [redacted]. So it**
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1 wasn't very pleasant accommodation.
 2 Then we moved to a place called [redacted], which
 3 constantly got flooded and with a big garage built at
 4 the back of us took all our garden away, took our site
 5 view away. So it made living conditions very difficult.
 6 So it was a struggle. My father had to work in
 7 England and it was very difficult for my mother to cope
 8 on her own. My mother was a country girl and we were in
 9 a back street. So the neighbourhood was quite rough and
 10 I think it was quite difficult for my mother.
 11 Q. You have mentioned your father being away working in
 12 England. What was your mother's health like?
 13 **A. Well, my mother I think found the living conditions and**
 14 **being in a town -- she always wanted to be in the**
 15 **country -- I think she found it quite a struggle, and**
 16 **I think, you know, it wasn't easy. We were only in**
 17 **a two up, two down. The house had been built since the**
 18 **famine in Ireland. So it was very damp and not a very**
 19 **good place to live. It's demolished now.**
 20 Q. And if I can just ask you to look at paragraph 3 of your
 21 statement, which you'll see on the screen or you can
 22 look at it in the hard copy, where you talk about the
 23 types of difficulties that your mum was experiencing.
 24 She was being prescribed Valium --
 25 **A. Yes.**
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1 Q. -- and you later discovered she was receiving electric
 2 shock treatment, which didn't in her case help, and her
 3 condition deteriorated. It is that combination of your
 4 mum being unwell and your father working in England that
 5 led to you going to stay in Bishop Street.
 6 **A. Yes, that's what I believe.**
 7 Q. If we can just move to the next page, please, SND-11566,
 8 now you mention -- at the moment, as I was discussing
 9 with you before you came in to give evidence, the
 10 Inquiry has not received any documents about either you
 11 or your sister, who will give evidence later this
 12 afternoon by video link, and the -- both the
 13 congregation and the Health & Social Care Board on
 14 behalf of the various welfare authorities are continuing
 15 to search for material that might assist the Inquiry in
 16 understanding the background further. So at the moment
 17 there's nothing to give the precise date that you were
 18 going to Bishop Street, but to the best of your
 19 recollection it was 1961/1962.
 20 **A. Yes. I think I was at least [redacted] years old, perhaps [redacted]. It**
 21 **was quite a traumatic shock to be taken -- kind of**
 22 **lifted, as I felt. So I just kind of was in total shock**
 23 **the whole time. I found it very difficult.**
 24 Q. You describe then at paragraph 4 of your statement your
 25 sister, and the name is redacted, but this is your
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1 oldest sister, who is one year older than you.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. You and her are being taken away in a car. Can you tell
 4 the Inquiry who took you away in the car to the best of
 5 your knowledge?
 6 **A. As far as I remember there was a gentleman and a lady.**
 7 **The gentleman was driving the car with the lady next to**
 8 **him. I thought -- but I don't know where they were**
 9 **from. I presumed they were the Welfare, and my other**
 10 **siblings were taken in a bigger vehicle behind us, but**
 11 **my sister [redacted] and I were sitting in the back. My**
 12 **sister was crying her eyes out, but I had such a lump my**
 13 **throat I couldn't make a sound. I just think I was**
 14 **totally traumatised.**
 15 Q. And the man who was driving, you came to know him or had
 16 a nickname that you became aware of.
 17 **A. Well, there was -- yes. I mean, I think -- the chap --**
 18 **there was a welfare officer. We used to call him "The**
 19 **Cruelty Man". He used to come to our street and**
 20 **I suppose I thought -- saw him more like a child catcher**
 21 **in Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang as I got older and seen the**
 22 **film. His name was [redacted], and we always kind of**
 23 **lived in fear of being lifted by him. He was like from**
 24 **the welfare or something, you know. It was just a very**
 25 **scary figure in my childhood.**
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<p>1 Q. I think for now that name shouldn't be 2 published.</p> <p>3 A. Right. He's dead.</p> <p>4 Q. You've given it for the record and that can be looked 5 into by those who are involved, but just to be clear, 6 that name shouldn't be published by the media at this 7 point.</p> <p>8 You had -- you are aware of this gentleman in the 9 neighbourhood --</p> <p>10 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- as it were, at the time --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- or subsequently?</p> <p>14 A. I was kind -- other children in the neighbourhood were 15 aware of it. It was kind of because we were children, 16 we just were kind of frightened, but at the same time, 17 you know, it was something like the Bogeyman. We used 18 to laugh about it, you know, but it was -- I didn't 19 think this would happen, you know. You heard this 20 person was around. So I kind of always lived in fear, 21 because it was a rough neighbourhood and conditions were 22 very, very bad. Well, we did feel loved and we had 23 freedom and, you know, that all just stopped when we 24 were lifted, and it was very difficult.</p> <p>25 Q. I'm going to ask you something about that now, just the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 had on you, or was it a conversation you were ever able 2 to have with your dad?</p> <p>3 A. I felt terrible stigma, as I said. I thought you went 4 to a home because you were bad and it used to play on my 5 mind: "Maybe if I hadn't been so naughty. Maybe if I 6 hadn't done this or done that". It was always going 7 back on my mind round and round in circles and blaming 8 myself, and I did try and say to my father to talk about 9 it, but I could see tears in his eyes and I just 10 couldn't say any more, because I wanted to protect him, 11 because I think he would have been very hurt to know 12 that we were brutalised and not safe and protected, and 13 so I found -- even the stigma of talking about it, the 14 shame was very, very great. It was something that had 15 to be hidden.</p> <p>16 Q. You describe then in paragraph 6 the -- your dad having 17 bought you new clothes to go to Bishop Street and then 18 you describe those being taken from you.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Who did that and what happened to the clothes?</p> <p>21 A. It was the nuns. I never knew what happened to the 22 clothes and -- you know, and I tried to work out why did 23 they take these new clothes, because we were so pleased 24 to get new clothes, and I thought -- he bought us 25 trousers -- maybe trousers weren't appropriate. I never</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 first experience of going to Bishop Street. You 2 describe at the second part of paragraph 4, which the 3 Panel Members can see, the journey itself and the 4 emotional shock that you're describing about that.</p> <p>5 Then in paragraph 5 you describe how your sister, 6 your older sister, who is a year older than you, and you 7 at [] and [] whatever the precise age is, are in the 8 foyer of Nazareth House. Just explain what that was 9 like.</p> <p>10 A. It was terrifying. We were very distressed. It was 11 a non-familiar place and any adult that went past, 12 I remember going up and pulling at them and saying, you 13 know, "Can I go home now?" It's very difficult. We 14 were just made to sit down and be quiet. Nobody 15 explained anything. We were just left sitting there for 16 -- like for ages. It seemed like a long, long time. We 17 were terrified of the unknown. We didn't know what was 18 going to happen and the both of us would just reach out 19 to any adult that went past and -- you know, just to 20 tell us something, but we were just dismissed.</p> <p>21 Q. It's a matter that we'll come back to later on, but 22 whenever you returned and eventually your dad returned 23 to your home in Omagh to live with you, did you discuss 24 how you ended up living in Bishop Street and the effect 25 that I know you are about to describe, the effect that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 could work it out why we were given these drab kind of 2 home -- you know, care home clothes, and -- but I don't 3 know what happened to the clothes. They were brand new. 4 I don't know what happened.</p> <p>5 Q. In the second part of paragraph 6, if you just -- if 6 you're following me on the screen, there's where: 7 "I recall ..." 8 and you talk about the holy medal --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- that you'd got at your first communion and you recall 11 that as being around the age of 8.</p> <p>12 A. Yes. I made my Holy Communion at 8.</p> <p>13 Q. And you had the medal with you.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And can you just explain to the Inquiry Panel what 16 happened to that medal? What was the experience you had 17 in respect of it?</p> <p>18 A. Well, this medal was very precious to me, because I kind 19 of tried to hang on to an image of a loving God. It was 20 my last link to my previous experience. So it was the 21 only thing that wasn't taken off me when we had to hand 22 our new clothes over. So it was extremely precious. So 23 I used to take it off and put it under my pillow at 24 night, and the older girl in charge of the dormitory, 25 I seen her wearing at breakfast. I couldn't find it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

1 I was very distressed that morning, because I couldn't
 2 find it. She was wearing it at breakfast. So
 3 I challenged her that was my medal and I want it back.
 4 She called me a liar. Then she started to -- I couldn't
 5 eat my food I was so distressed, even though I was
 6 starving -- I was very, very hungry and cold all the
 7 time I was there -- but I was so distressed about this
 8 medal.
 9 So she held me down and got other girls and the nun
 10 came and held me down and they pinched my nose and they
 11 force fed this -- I was choking. I was absolutely
 12 terrified. So -- so I never got my medal and she got to
 13 keep it. I got to see it every morning, her wearing it.
 14 It was very difficult and I was punished for just asking
 15 for my property back.
 16 Q. Now you -- I was asking you earlier, but can you
 17 confirm -- can you remember what the nun who was
 18 involved in that looked like?
 19 A. I can't. I think I spent my life trying not to -- I try
 20 to suppress these memories, because they kept coming
 21 into my mind and I found they were just making me crazy.
 22 I couldn't resolve it. So I determined to just shut it
 23 down and try to move on with my life. So I -- I think
 24 at the time I just wanted -- when I got out of there,
 25 I just wanted to forget the place. It was like a living

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1 nightmare, and I just didn't want to have to -- tried
 2 not to -- I didn't want it to be real. I just wanted to
 3 shut it out. So I can't remember -- I can't even
 4 remember names or anything.
 5 Q. I want to ask you about Bishop Street itself. You were
 6 living on the first floor in Bishop Street. Is that
 7 right?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And can you describe was it small rooms, large rooms?
 10 What form did the accommodation take?
 11 A. It seemed quite large to me, maybe because I was
 12 a child, but we had a very large dormitory with lots of
 13 beds in it, and downstairs, you know, there seemed to be
 14 large rooms. There was a place where we were taught,
 15 and there was a big concrete kind of courtyard for
 16 playing in. It just always smelt of carbolic soap and
 17 always very, very cold, freezing, freezing cold all the
 18 time. I always remember just being very hungry and
 19 very, very cold, and I did notice that I got [REDACTED]
 20 [REDACTED] I didn't know what it was at the time, but
 21 I-learned. You know, my fingers would just look like
 22 they were dead, and I don't know if it was because of
 23 the consequences of being there, but there didn't seem
 24 to be any stimulation. We just used to pick nits out of
 25 each other's hair. We had scabies. So we were always

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1 itching, and we had head lice.
 2 Q. That's a subject I will come on to shortly. Can I ask
 3 you: you were living in the dorm --
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. -- on the first floor. What was on the second floor
 6 then?
 7 A. There was the nursery and my younger siblings were in
 8 the nursery.
 9 Q. I'll come on to that with you shortly. Who seemed to be
 10 in charge of what was happening on the first floor, what
 11 was happening on the second floor, what was happening on
 12 the ground floor? To you who seemed to be in charge?
 13 A. It just seemed to be the older girls were in charge and
 14 they were quite brutal. They didn't seem to be -- you
 15 know, they seemed to be allowed to do anything, and
 16 I did once report their behaviour to a nun, because
 17 I was being so badly -- I was being very badly beaten
 18 because I was trying to get up into the nursery and
 19 I was being beaten down. I did manage to sneak past on
 20 one occasion, but it was very, very difficult. I gave
 21 up in the end it became so difficult, but I did go to
 22 a nun and complain that I was being beaten by these
 23 older girls and I was told to go away and stop telling
 24 tales.
 25 Q. Now you say in paragraph 7 -- you describe the older

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1 girls in charge:
 2 "... who bullied and abused us physically, mentally
 3 and spiritually on a daily basis."
 4 Is there anything more you want to say about that?
 5 When you say they physically and mentally abused you,
 6 how?
 7 A. Well, they would just punch at random. When we were
 8 queuing up for our breakfast or anything, I used to get
 9 punched in the back and just beaten up. At one time
 10 I tried to defend myself, but in the end I just became
 11 resigned to the abuse and just let it happen, because it
 12 was pointless to do anything, even to cry. You were
 13 beaten more if you cried. So you had to totally shut
 14 down to survive.
 15 They kind of instilled in you like a punishing God.
 16 Everything -- I remember making a comment about
 17 something quite innocent in the wash-room. I said, "If
 18 you don't wash under your arms, hair will grow there".
 19 That's what I believed as a child. I remember being, my
 20 mouth was washed out with soap and water and I was told
 21 I was evil and bad and I shouldn't, you know, be talking
 22 dirty, and I wasn't aware that it was. So it was always
 23 kind of random attacks, and I got to the point where
 24 I was afraid to say anything. I became quite withdrawn
 25 and quiet, because anything would trigger -- I tried to

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1 **be invisible, because anything would trigger abuse.**
 2 Q. You describe then in paragraph 7 that you felt the nuns
 3 must have either turned a blind eye, colluded or joined
 4 in the abuse.
 5 **A. Uh-huh.**
 6 Q. You have described one incident where that did happen.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Why do you feel they turned a blind eye?
 9 **A. I wondered if it was just overwhelming for them. I just**
 10 **wondered if they knew how to cope themselves. There**
 11 **were so many of us and I just think it was easier for**
 12 **them to just let the older girls take charge. I don't**
 13 **really know why they did that. I only can assume that**
 14 **they weren't properly trained to look after children.**
 15 Q. And you then describe in paragraph 7:
 16 "My memory of Nazareth House is that it was
 17 a terrifying, cold, impersonal and abusive place."
 18 Is that your impression as you sit here now at [REDACTED] --
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. -- as it was back then?
 21 **A. Yes, yes. I just ...**
 22 Q. Now you mentioned already trying to get to the second
 23 floor to the nursery. You talk then at paragraph 8
 24 about one of your siblings who was in the playground and
 25 then about another sibling, a younger boy, who was on

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1 the second floor, and you trying to get up to visit
 2 them. Can you just tell the Inquiry a little bit about
 3 what happened as you tried to see your siblings in the
 4 second floor?
 5 **A. Well, I was always beaten back by the older girls and**
 6 **punched and, you know, very brutally discouraged from**
 7 **going to see my younger siblings. I did hear my younger**
 8 **brother got pneumonia, which didn't surprise me, because**
 9 **it was absolutely freezing. I think I got through once**
 10 **and it was so cold up there. I did manage to see my**
 11 **sister who was about 4, [REDACTED], and tried to warm her**
 12 **hands, but they were just made to play outside in the**
 13 **freezing cold.**
 14 Q. I was, as you know, showing you earlier your sister is
 15 going to give evidence later today, and I understand you
 16 don't know precisely what she had to say to the Inquiry,
 17 but I'm just going to bring up SND-10575, please, if
 18 that's possible, and if we can just maximise
 19 paragraph 11, you will see that this is what your sister
 20 that you've just described who was on the second floor
 21 is saying, that she regarded you as like a surrogate
 22 mother due to your mum's illness and that you had tried
 23 on several occasions to reach her on the second floor
 24 and come to her rescue. That's how she perceived what
 25 you have been describing to the Inquiry from your

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1 perspective.
 2 If we can just go back then to SND-11566, please.
 3 Just down towards paragraph 8 you mention that:
 4 "I think there were about 400 children in the home
 5 at that stage."
 6 **A. It just got overwhelming with children.**
 7 Q. The Inquiry Panel has had to listen to me showing them
 8 statistics and I will do that again in due course.
 9 I will not do it with you now, but I can tell you from
 10 the statistics between 1960 and 1965 there's between 100
 11 and 150 children living in Bishop Street at any given
 12 point in time, and the Panel will have the opportunity
 13 to look at the number of staff members that are said to
 14 have been working with the children during that period,
 15 but what was it that gave you the impression of that
 16 figure of 400?
 17 **A. Well, just we were all crammed into courtyards outside.**
 18 **There was hardly room to move there seemed to be so many**
 19 **children. It just seemed overwhelming to me. Even**
 20 **though I was from a big family, I had not experienced**
 21 **anything as overwhelming as this.**
 22 Q. If we just move down to the next page then, at
 23 paragraph 9 you talk about two siblings that you
 24 struggled emotionally with not being able to find and
 25 these two children had particular difficulties.

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1 **A. Yes. They had learning difficulties and I believe**
 2 **I found out that one was sent to Muckamore Abbey, and I**
 3 **don't know what happened to [REDACTED], and I don't think**
 4 **she's able to verbalise it, because she is more disabled**
 5 **than the older, [REDACTED] but I know Muckamore Abbey was --**
 6 **I remember my father. She was still in it when I got**
 7 **home, and my father went up to put her back, and she**
 8 **didn't want to go, and it was --- children were**
 9 **screaming and banging to get out and I think I even**
 10 **remember bars. I was so distressed I said to my dad,**
 11 **"We can't leave her here", and it was really hard to go**
 12 **back -- we had trains in those days -- very hard to go**
 13 **back to Omagh on the train. My daddy eventually**
 14 **couldn't take her there any more when she got home.**
 15 **Now she can't -- she finds it very difficult to go**
 16 **anywhere. It's taken it her years to even go on respite**
 17 **to give my older sister a break, because she looks after**
 18 **now my three disabled siblings.**
 19 Q. Your older sister was the one who left in the car with
 20 you --
 21 **A. Yes, yes.**
 22 Q. -- to go to Bishop Street?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. The two of you went together.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. You describe that.</p> <p>2 Now in paragraph 10 of your statement you mention</p> <p>3 that word again:</p> <p>4 "I felt overwhelmed by the ordeal of being taken</p> <p>5 into care. In Nazareth House I was constantly hungry,</p> <p>6 frightened, freezing, freezing cold and covered in</p> <p>7 scabies and head lice."</p> <p>8 Then you use the phrase:</p> <p>9 "It felt as if I'd descended into hell."</p> <p>10 A. It was just like that.</p> <p>11 Q. What was it about the place and the atmosphere that had</p> <p>12 you feeling like that?</p> <p>13 A. There was just no love. It was very cold. It was -- it</p> <p>14 seemed -- everybody seemed to be very aggressive. It</p> <p>15 was just like so terrifying and always being hungry and</p> <p>16 cold and just frightened. I didn't feel safe at all.</p> <p>17 I lived in fear all the time. It just was like I would</p> <p>18 imagine hell would have been like.</p> <p>19 Q. And you then talk in the latter part of that</p> <p>20 paragraph about the problem with head lice. Can you</p> <p>21 just explain to the Inquiry what did you as girls do to</p> <p>22 deal with head lice?</p> <p>23 A. We used to try and -- I remember we used to stand and</p> <p>24 try to pick it out of each other's hair, the nits and</p> <p>25 everything. One day my sister -- I was doing it on my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 wouldn't intervene or try to protect us, but it helped</p> <p>2 me to kind of get up the next day and face the abuse and</p> <p>3 thought, you know, "Please God, one day this will pass,</p> <p>4 you know, and I'll get out of here".</p> <p>5 Q. You describe then the daily regime in paragraph 11 and</p> <p>6 the sequence of events during the day. Then in</p> <p>7 paragraph 12 you describe bedtime. Do you want to say</p> <p>8 something to the Inquiry about that experience, the girl</p> <p>9 who was next to you and what occurred at night-time?</p> <p>10 A. It was very distressing and frightening at night. The</p> <p>11 girl in the bed next to me used to make this dreadful</p> <p>12 sounding noise, almost animal-like. It was terrifying,</p> <p>13 and the older girl in charge of the dormitory used to</p> <p>14 beat her, and then the nun would come out, and the older</p> <p>15 girl and the nun would -- because the nun seemed to have</p> <p>16 a room just off the dormitory -- and they used to attack</p> <p>17 her every night and beat her every night. It never</p> <p>18 stopped her making this awful sound. She just seemed to</p> <p>19 get worse, but one night I just couldn't stand it any</p> <p>20 more, and I jumped on her bed and tried to push the nun</p> <p>21 and the older girl away, but then they attacked me and</p> <p>22 beat me into submission, and, you know, in the end</p> <p>23 I just could not do any -- I just felt totally hopeless</p> <p>24 and it was useless to try and -- you know, things just</p> <p>25 never got better. Just continued all the time. It</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 sister's head and she collapsed, and then I kind of --</p> <p>2 my legs gave way as well. I don't know if it was the</p> <p>3 shock of her going down, because I was kind of quite</p> <p>4 close to the sister. We were very close in age and we</p> <p>5 were together. So again I was trying to hang on to any</p> <p>6 kind of previous life and -- and that occasion was very</p> <p>7 bad.</p> <p>8 I don't know what happened to my sister. We were</p> <p>9 separated. I was put in a dormitory, this huge</p> <p>10 dormitory by myself, and I was crying for my mother and</p> <p>11 I just wanted to die. I couldn't move my legs. There</p> <p>12 was a window and I thought, "I could jump out that</p> <p>13 window and kill myself. That would end all this pain".</p> <p>14 I remember feeling such despair. Unfortunately</p> <p>15 I couldn't move my legs. So I couldn't get to the</p> <p>16 window, but at that point I really was in the depths of</p> <p>17 despair.</p> <p>18 I did actually pray, and it gave me a lot of peace</p> <p>19 and it helped me, and I think I came to realise these</p> <p>20 older girls probably didn't know any better. They</p> <p>21 probably were brutalised all their life. That was all</p> <p>22 they knew and that was only the way they knew how to</p> <p>23 act. I think in some part it did give me a bit of</p> <p>24 compassion for them, because I thought they just didn't</p> <p>25 know any better. I couldn't understand why the nuns</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 never resolved the issue. The beatings just went on and</p> <p>2 on every night. It was very distressful. I used to cry</p> <p>3 myself to sleep every night and I couldn't understand</p> <p>4 why they didn't get help for her, that they chose</p> <p>5 violence as a way of dealing with it.</p> <p>6 Q. And you mention then in paragraph 13 about never being</p> <p>7 allowed to leave the home. You mentioned your home life</p> <p>8 in Omagh. You had some freedom.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. How did the two compare? What do you mean by saying you</p> <p>11 were never allowed to leave the home except to play in a</p> <p>12 large yard?</p> <p>13 A. I heard that sometimes the children were allowed up the</p> <p>14 town, allowed out sometimes, but I remember trying to</p> <p>15 escape very early on when I got there, you know, and</p> <p>16 I did try and stand up for myself and -- but I was told</p> <p>17 on and beaten and I was never allowed to leave. I was</p> <p>18 just in this courtyard all the time. There was no</p> <p>19 stimulation. It was just very bleak, and I did miss my</p> <p>20 freedom. I missed the green fields, you know. I used</p> <p>21 to have lots of green fields around me, and I missed</p> <p>22 being able just to go with my friends to the matinees on</p> <p>23 Saturdays and just playing skipping. We had lots of</p> <p>24 street games. It was a rough area, but we played</p> <p>25 skipping and Hopscotch and ball games, but it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 stimulating and fun, Cowboys and Indians and Tig and 2 everything. That all stopped. It was like my whole 3 childhood just stopped and I descended into this black 4 hole and I just felt I was left there. 5 Q. You describe then in paragraph 13 a particular incident 6 in the large yard that you're talking about involving 7 one of your sisters, who was hit in the mouth with 8 a wooden plank which was used as a type of swing. 9 A. Yes. It was like a swing and it was levered from 10 children that end and this end was like a long plank. 11 She must have been standing quite near it and it just 12 hit her in the mouth. She's still got a lump there. It 13 did bleed quite a lot at the time, but nobody seemed to 14 care. It was just left. We tried to stop the bleeding, 15 but nobody -- just left her like that. You know, nobody 16 seemed to give her any attention. 17 Q. In paragraph 14 then you describe the atmosphere in the 18 school part. You went to school -- 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. -- in Bishop Street also. 21 A. Yes. It seemed to be on the premises, yes. 22 Q. You say there in paragraph 14 that the teachers all 23 seemed harsh, distant and cold, and you describe 24 an incident with your older sibling, who was in the same 25 class as you, who turned out to be dyslexic. Do you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 matinees and we would see -- Elvis Presley was a big 2 star when I was a child. We would see him in the 3 matinees. So I was used to seeing movies, but when they 4 would show -- sometimes they would show a film in the 5 home and like they would show an Elvis Presley one. If 6 the dancing girls came on, they used to cut it, edit it 7 and then move on past, or if it was sort of kissing, 8 they would just move past it. 9 So you always got the impression that your body 10 somehow -- this was not normal to do things like that. 11 You were so ashamed of everything about you. Is there 12 something wrong with these things? Any show of 13 affection seemed to be bad or dirty or something to be 14 ashamed of, and, like I said, you know, the films these 15 days are more explicit. You know, then it was really 16 quite innocent, and I never thought anything about it. 17 It's just they made us think this in our mind. You 18 know, it was almost like we were being conditioned to 19 think all this was, you know, something to be ashamed 20 of. It was ever so strange. Anything to do with our 21 body or, you know, if you even said anything, they kind 22 of turned, twisted it to make you assumed of what you 23 said, what you saw, what you did. So it was easier just 24 to shut down and, you know, not to express yourself, try 25 to avoid any kind of abuse.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 want to say something about how she was treated? 2 A. Well, we had to spell words and everything in a circle, 3 and obviously she had difficulty, but, you know, she was 4 treated as stupid. I mean, later on we discovered she 5 is actually dyslexic, but she was called stupid. She 6 was humiliated, and I remember feeling I want to protect 7 her, but I knew I couldn't. I didn't know how to do it 8 and perhaps I didn't have the words myself. I wasn't 9 that well educated, but it was very difficult, because, 10 you know, we were kind of treated as stupid. So maybe 11 we -- we just thought we were and particularly my older 12 sister believed all her life that -- that she was just 13 stupid. 14 Q. You then describe in paragraph 15: 15 "We were constantly made to feel ashamed of 16 ourselves, our bodies and our lack of knowledge in the 17 home. I recall always feeling ashamed, dirty and 18 profoundly unworthy." 19 What was it about your experience that caused you to 20 feel that way? 21 A. I think more by the treatment. If you said something 22 quite innocent, you know, you were -- they always made 23 it out that it was dirty or bad, and because it was 24 dirty or bad, you felt dirty and bad. 25 Sometimes we would see -- like I used to go to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Q. You mention then at paragraph 17 -- sorry -- 2 paragraph 16 about if a priest came to visit and what 3 you were expected to tell the priest about what you 4 thought of Bishop Street. How did you find that? 5 A. I found it terribly conflicting, because on the one 6 hand, you know, you were punished for every little 7 thing, even if it was quite innocent, but then we were 8 told by the nuns if the priests ask do we like it here, 9 we had to say we liked it, and I didn't like it and 10 I wanted to scream and shout and say, "I hate the place. 11 I want to get out of here", but when -- we had -- so it 12 was awful to have to lie to a priest. We were told that 13 our souls were kind of white and every time we lied or 14 did anything it got blacker and blacker. So it was -- 15 we had a lot of conflict. I had a lot of conflict. 16 I felt put in a double bind. I was terrified, because 17 I knew to go against the nuns, like, you know, either 18 the older girls would punish me or I would somehow, you 19 know, be abused. So it was so difficult, and also 20 I felt it is very hard not to betray myself, because 21 that was the worst thing, because I wanted to be -- to 22 say, you know, "It's horrible", but, you know, you 23 were -- you know, I was terrified for my life I think 24 a lot of the time. The beatings were quite bad. 25 Q. Can I ask you were there any memories that you can look</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 at now that you see as positive about your time in 2 Bishop Street? Was there anything that was a light that 3 you could hold on to, or was there anything that sticks 4 in your mind that along with all of the bad there was at 5 least this?</p> <p>6 A. I think, you know, my sister was there. So that was 7 nice. Just that, you know, and understanding that 8 perhaps the older girls probably didn't know anything 9 but brutality, and that kind of kept me thinking well, 10 you know, I just had time, but, you know, I think the 11 fact my sister was there and we could be together was 12 a positive thing.</p> <p>13 Also I did try and hang on to an image of a loving 14 God. My mother did tell me about a loving God and 15 I tried to hang on to that, which was very difficult, 16 because it was being systematically destroyed really by 17 how religion was demonstrated there and instilled there, 18 you know.</p> <p>19 Q. You then talk in paragraph 18 about the day that you 20 left Bishop Street along with again your oldest sibling. 21 What warning had you about leaving? Did you know you 22 were going to leave?</p> <p>23 A. No, I had no -- I had no preparation for leaving at all. 24 I just one day was in Nazareth House and suddenly 25 I seemed to be -- I can't even remember the journey.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 recall, which is the name placed on the van that took 2 you to school.</p> <p>3 A. Yes, that took us to our local school, you know, and it 4 had "Coneywarren Children's Home" across it, and 5 I remember feeling so ashamed at getting out of the van, 6 because I thought the stigma was so great and, you know, 7 everybody will now know that I'm a bad person because of 8 it.</p> <p>9 Q. You then describe in paragraph 19 that you and your 10 older sister went -- got to go home to your mum. Your 11 father was still in England working --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- but you got to go back and live with her. You 14 describe yourself as feeling like a zombie.</p> <p>15 A. Uh-huh. I was in a very bad way. My hands came up in 16 huge blisters and my sister hands came up in huge 17 blisters. I remember at school my hands were shaking so 18 much, and I do believe perhaps I had post-traumatic 19 stress simply because years later, when I heard about 20 the Hillsborough disaster, people on TV talking about 21 these blisters, and I thought, "Well, you know, that's 22 what I had when I came out of this place". I think it 23 was just a reaction to what happened, but we were 24 treated like we had some kind of disease. So we were 25 treated quite badly at school and again by nuns who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 I think I was so kind of shut down and so traumatised by 2 Nazareth House that, you know, maybe I had resigned 3 myself that I might never get out, you know, but when we 4 got to this other place, it was so much better, because 5 there was no beatings. There was only probably about 6 a dozen children and it -- you could -- there was -- 7 outside there was a beautiful stream and there was grass 8 and they had swings, nice swings, and it was a much more 9 natural environment, and I remember feeling such relief. 10 Even though I wasn't happy to be still away from home, 11 I -- it was such relief to be away from the beatings, 12 but I still felt terrible stress that my siblings were 13 still there. I think I kept saying, "When are they 14 coming here as well?", because I wanted them to be in 15 a nicer place.</p> <p>16 Q. So --</p> <p>17 A. I couldn't really enjoy it, because I knew my siblings 18 were suffering still.</p> <p>19 Q. So you and your oldest sibling --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- went to Coneywarren --</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. -- but your other siblings remained in Bishop Street?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. And you do describe one instance of stigma that you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 segregated us and made us feel so ashamed that we were 2 dirty, you know.</p> <p>3 Q. To the extent that you can until we get material that 4 will help, given you're recollecting across fifty years, 5 your feeling is that you were in Bishop Street for about 6 three to four years or two to three years?</p> <p>7 A. Probably less than that. I don't even know if it would 8 have been two years. It did feel like ever to me, you 9 know. Time just dragged there. I just felt I was there 10 forever, but it probably was only a couple of years at 11 the most.</p> <p>12 Q. And in Coneywarren that was a shorter period?</p> <p>13 A. It seemed a short period, yes. It didn't seem that long 14 really.</p> <p>15 Q. And is your feeling, looking back now as best you can, 16 you were in Coneywarren for less than a year?</p> <p>17 A. Probably. Maybe. I don't know. It was maybe six 18 months, less than a year, but it was a much nicer 19 environment. It was such a relief to be there.</p> <p>20 Q. So if you -- doing the best we can roughly at this 21 stage, if you were ■ to ■ when you went into Bishop 22 Street --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- you are ■ to ■ --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

1 Q. -- when you're coming out --
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. -- to Coneywarren and you're [redacted] to [redacted] when you're coming
 4 out of Coneywarren, going back to live with your mum.
 5 **A. Yes. Probably I was about [redacted] or [redacted] I think. I know the**
 6 **11 Plus was -- you know, but I didn't do the 11 Plus.**
 7 **I don't know if I was too old or they didn't feel I was**
 8 **kind of capable, because I was in such a bad emotional**
 9 **state, which I tried to hide, but I felt like I was**
 10 **a statue, like a zombie. I couldn't express -- you**
 11 **know, I just was very withdrawn. "Catatonic" probably**
 12 **would be the word, you know. I just was in such**
 13 **an emotional bad way.**
 14 Q. And you and your sister lived with your mum and
 15 eventually your other siblings I think.
 16 **A. Joined us, yes.**
 17 Q. For instance, your sister who is giving evidence later
 18 this afternoon, she describes coming straight out of
 19 Bishop Street home.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Is that your recollection --
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. -- of what happened for the other siblings?
 24 **A. Yes. and I were sent home first to take care of**
 25 **our mother, because mummy was back home by then, and**
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1 **then my other siblings arrived. After we were at home**
 2 **for a short time my other siblings started to arrive.**
 3 Q. And did your dad then come back as well to live with --
 4 **A. I think he was still away a lot. I think probably by my**
 5 **teens he did have to give up his job and come and stay**
 6 **at home, because the situation with my mother**
 7 **deteriorated. She had electric shocks. I just feel my**
 8 **mother was destroyed in the end, you know. Our family**
 9 **doctor was an alcoholic and he was not a very nice**
 10 **person and I think his way of shutting people up was to**
 11 **give them loads of drugs. That was my -- even as**
 12 **a child, because I used to have to go and get my**
 13 **mother's drugs. I used to have to go, and the doctor**
 14 **would leave me sitting to the very last, even if I was**
 15 **the first there for the appointment. He would take all**
 16 **the adults because they would complain, and I would be**
 17 **left sitting maybe for a few hours, even though I had my**
 18 **homework to do, and I just felt that society wasn't**
 19 **very, very nice.**
 20 Q. You describe then you get married at [redacted] --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- which is in [redacted], and by which time you had obtained
 23 qualifications in RSA typing and shorthand and
 24 bookkeeping, and you took a job in [redacted].
 25 **A. Yes.**
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1 Q. You worked in the late '60s, early '70s in Belfast.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Your husband ultimately was [redacted] and you and he
 4 went off to live in [redacted] --
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. -- and you've lived in England for the last [redacted] --
 7 **A. Over [redacted] years now I think, yes.**
 8 Q. [redacted] years. You left when you were [redacted] --
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. -- and you've been there ever since. You have [redacted]
 11 sons --
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. -- who have successful jobs.
 14 **A. Yes. They seem to be functioning okay.**
 15 Q. One of them has come along to support you today. You
 16 have now got a grandchild.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. You describe various jobs that you have worked on in
 19 your adult life, including you actually work for
 20 a Catholic diocese in England --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- and still do that job.
 23 **A. Yes, yes. I think I've always tried to resolve the**
 24 **religious conflict I had by what they said and how they**
 25 **behaved and it never really sat right with me. I think**
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1 **I'm always trying to fix it, but I ...**
 2 Q. You describe then in paragraph 23 of your statement --
 3 if we just scroll up so we can see all of paragraph 23,
 4 you describe the medical difficulties that you have and
 5 you associate certainly with your time you spent as
 6 a child in care. You talk in paragraph 24 about the
 7 type of medication that was offered to you, but which
 8 you preferred not to take, and the reason for that
 9 connected to what you watched happened to your mum.
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. With your mum the issue was Valium. Is that right?
 12 **A. Well, I think Valium seemed to be the wonder drug at**
 13 **that point, but there was lots of tranquillisers about,**
 14 **but I think that was kind of the initial wonder drug for**
 15 **women when I was a child. It kind of was -- I used to**
 16 **hear it being whispered around as a child, you know.**
 17 Q. So your response to being offered medication was based
 18 on that --
 19 **A. Was too scary.**
 20 Q. -- experience.
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. You discuss then in paragraph 25 the condition that you
 23 mentioned, the [redacted] in your hands.
 24 **A. Yes, and my feet, yes.**
 25 Q. And your feet. You then say in paragraph 26:
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1 "I continuously worry that I have passed my
 2 insecurities on to my children and that my health
 3 difficulties and insecurities have made life difficult
 4 for them."
 5 **A. Yes. I have always been very concerned, because**
 6 **I always lived in fear that my children would be lifted.**
 7 **I felt I had to be like Superwoman, you know, so that**
 8 **wouldn't happen to them.**
 9 **It is only in hindsight now that I've been -- since**
 10 **I have been having to come to this Inquiry that I have**
 11 **learnt that [REDACTED] can be brought on by extreme cold**
 12 **and shock, emotional shock, and even an underactive**
 13 **thyroid which I have, I have read that it is more common**
 14 **in women who have been abused as children. So I am only**
 15 **making the connections now, because I never really**
 16 **wanted to examine that area. I wanted to push that area**
 17 **down to kind of have a life. It kind of almost consumed**
 18 **me, my experience, and it can, you know, sort of trigger**
 19 **a lot of I suppose post-traumatic stress would be the**
 20 **word. It triggers a lot of anxiety. Even a certain**
 21 **smell or somebody behaves in a way that reminds me of**
 22 **the situation I find it still to this day haunts me.**
 23 Q. And by that you're talking about Bishop Street?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. Well, can I ask you -- it is always dangerous for

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1 someone in my position to ask a question they don't know
 2 the answer to, but your children, they have done well
 3 and --
 4 **A. Well, as far as I know. They probably wouldn't tell me,**
 5 **you know. They probably don't tell me everything.**
 6 Q. They don't appear to have taken upon themselves what you
 7 were concerned about.
 8 **A. I hope not. No. He said "No".**
 9 Q. You then describe that eventually you came forward and
 10 made a statement to the police --
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. -- in 2013. You then say in paragraph 28 you have
 13 throughout your life continuously struggled to contain
 14 and control all the effect, the damaging emotions that
 15 you feel, and that the whole experience had a very
 16 crippling effect on your siblings:
 17 "... and myself, leaving us vulnerable even as
 18 adults."
 19 Can I ask you about -- you have described your
 20 siblings quite a lot --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- in terms of your interaction and your attempt to
 23 interact with them in the home. What is the
 24 relationship like with your siblings now?
 25 **A. It's all right, but they still find it very open to --**

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1 **you know, they still find it very hard to talk about**
 2 **what happened. The stigma is still there.**
 3 Q. Do different children deal with it in different ways?
 4 **A. Yes. I think they're probably more open about it. You**
 5 **know, this is the most open I have even been, because**
 6 **I couldn't tell -- probably [REDACTED] knows more now than**
 7 **his older brothers. I couldn't really -- it was**
 8 **something I wanted to bury and I -- it's even hard to**
 9 **deal with it now, and it's hard for, you know, my**
 10 **sister -- you know, like a couple of my sisters would**
 11 **say, "Look, we can't talk about it. We don't want to".**
 12 **You know, it distresses -- it's still very distressing.**
 13 Q. So of those who have had a similar experience to you
 14 some have been able to talk about it; some --
 15 **A. Yes, more than others. Some have been more open than**
 16 **others. I suspect -- I don't have any proof, but**
 17 **I suspect maybe they had other abuse, you know, other**
 18 **than just the physical and mental abuse. I sometimes**
 19 **wonder, but I have never been able to broach the**
 20 **subject, because it's just such a big taboo, such a big**
 21 **issue, and I couldn't disrespect them unless they wanted**
 22 **to bring it up themselves.**
 23 Q. Your older sibling that you were closest to who
 24 travelled with you there --
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. -- and back, she's dealt with it differently. She
 2 doesn't want to talk about it.
 3 **A. She doesn't want to, but she was then -- when we got**
 4 **back home, when she was 11 or 12, she was sent to**
 5 **Whiteabbey and that was a quite abusive place. So**
 6 **I think her abuse continued a lot longer than mine and**
 7 **she is very traumatised, but I could tell when she came**
 8 **home on holiday that she must be very badly abused by**
 9 **how she behaved. I was always quite -- I kind of lost**
 10 **a bit of my sister and she wasn't there. So it was very**
 11 **hard.**
 12 Q. As I said to you before, you just take your time. If
 13 you want to have a drink of water or ... There is no
 14 difficulty at all in taking whatever time you need.
 15 You end your statement by saying that you've
 16 continued to struggle with low self-esteem and that you
 17 live your life in a state of constant fear and
 18 nervousness. Is that still the position or do you --
 19 **A. I just -- after that experience I just never ever felt**
 20 **safe in the world. I just never feel safe. I can't**
 21 **describe it. It's so hard to trust and so hard to open**
 22 **up, you know. This is quite hard, because I've tried to**
 23 **hide this for a very long time. I thought I'd go to**
 24 **England and just start fresh and nobody knows me, knows**
 25 **my history, but it's still in my psyche. You know, it's**

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<p>1 just really hard. It's something that is always there 2 and can be quite easily triggered. It's something 3 I think I just will have to live with, you know, for the 4 rest of my life. It's -- in some ways it feels worse 5 now having to deal with it, but I think it's -- you 6 know, in some ways it has helped as well to be able to 7 talk about it.</p> <p>8 Q. Well, there's one more matter I want to cover about your 9 time in Bishop Street that your sister mentions --</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- more so than you, if you can help me with it, and 12 that's she suggests in her statement that you were in 13 a position to tell her that your dad paid for you.</p> <p>14 A. Well, I think my dad did tell me. I think mummy might 15 have told me, but I think one of my parents did say they 16 paid -- paid for us while we were in Derry.</p> <p>17 Q. That's maybe something that will come out in the 18 documents when they are produced, but that's what he 19 told you --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- was the position.</p> <p>22 Now the Inquiry is obviously very grateful for you 23 coming to give evidence, but before we finish the 24 Inquiry, as you know, has to make a series of 25 recommendations as to perhaps an apology or form of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 the people who have it's good to be able to come and 2 speak. It's painful but I think it's worthwhile, and 3 I have learned a lot even just going through this 4 experience. Things that I couldn't even think about or 5 talk about I've been able to do so. So thank you very 6 much. Thank you.</p> <p>7 Q. HIA394, I don't have any more questions for you, but if 8 you just remain where you are for a short time --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- the Panel Members may want to ask you something or 11 they may not. If you just bear with us for a short 12 period.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Questions from THE PANEL</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN: HIA394, there's one small thing I want to ask 15 you, to go back to the very beginning of what you 16 described, which was your experience when the gentleman 17 and the lady came in the car and took you from your home 18 in the country away outside Derry, in other words, into 19 Nazareth House. You then spoke about a gentleman whom 20 you named, you described as "The Cruelty Man".</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that's how he was referred to in our street.</p> <p>22 Q. It is quite a common expression, particularly in country 23 areas, for officials from the NSPCC I think. You gave 24 his name. I am not clear whether you are saying he was 25 the man who was in the car when you went to Derry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 apology, a memorial or some other form of redress. Is 2 there anything you'd like to say to the Inquiry about 3 the recommendations that it has to make?</p> <p>4 A. I suppose none of us will ever get our childhood back or 5 our life. I felt totally broken by my experience. So 6 I suppose in this lifetime maybe it could never be 7 fulfilled, but I think it would be nice to live with 8 a sense of being safe and secure, particularly as we get 9 older, because I think we are probably all middle-aged 10 or older now. So, you know, I do think we could do with 11 some support.</p> <p>12 Also thank you for letting me have a voice, because 13 I know many others haven't had a voice and have suffered 14 and died with the pain of never being able to express 15 it. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Q. You have probably covered what I am about to ask you, 17 HIA394.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Again just take your time. Part of this process is 20 giving you an opportunity to say that which you'd like 21 to say. Can I ask you just in closing is there anything 22 else that you would like to say to the Inquiry when this 23 opportunity is available to you?</p> <p>24 A. Just a very big thank you, because I did actually think 25 I would just die carrying the pain to my grave and for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 A. I'm not clear either. I think I was kind of in such 2 an emotional state I was just traumatised.</p> <p>3 Q. I see.</p> <p>4 A. I -- he -- I -- just in a state of shock.</p> <p>5 Q. So you can't say really?</p> <p>6 A. No, I can't really remember now. I think I was just ...</p> <p>7 Q. As I say, it is quite a small thing, but I just wasn't 8 clear in my own mind what it was you were saying.</p> <p>9 Thank you very much for coming and, as we can gather 10 from what you have said, I mean, you have come from 11 England with your son to speak to the Inquiry today. 12 Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 A. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Q. There's nothing more for you to do. So if you would 15 like to leave the room, I'm sure --</p> <p>16 A. Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 Q. -- that might be the best thing for you. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Witness withdrew)</p> <p>19 Reference to documents by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>20 MR AIKEN: Chairman, I didn't want to do it while HIA394 was 21 giving evidence, but I said I would give you just 22 briefly the context of the time period that HIA394 was 23 talking about between '60 and '65.</p> <p>24 If we can pull up on the screen briefly 25 page SND-9211. This is an SND reference. This document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 is an example -- and we will be looking at inspections 2 as an issue in due course -- but this is an example of 3 a Ministry of Home Affairs inspection under the 1950 Act 4 and it happened to be found in a fire reports file that 5 the Inquiry obtained from PRONI, but for today's 6 purposes you will see in the second paragraph there were 7 139 children in residence. 8 CHAIRMAN: Just pause while we read this, please. What time 9 is this referring to? 10 MR AIKEN: This is 7th October 1960. So it's either one or 11 two years before HIA394 was present in Bishop Street. 12 CHAIRMAN: 139 children in Nazareth House. 13 MR AIKEN: The time period -- we can see the staff in that 14 year at page SND-6293, please. 15 CHAIRMAN: Just a moment. 16 MR AIKEN: Sorry. If we just stay where we're at. 17 CHAIRMAN: We see that therefore 1960 it refers to the 18 Reverend Mother General, that is the head of the order, 19 recommending that the older girls be divided into three 20 groups. The evidence we have heard today suggests that 21 it wasn't until the late 1960s or early 1970s that that 22 happened. Is that right? 23 MR AIKEN: Yes. It seems to be the position. 24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. So we just scroll down through that. I see 25 a reference to fire drill. There is a reference to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 a little, please, that the total number of children who 2 can be accommodated is 140 and the number that are in 3 situ at that stage at 7(b) is 112. 4 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Just one moment, please. (Pause.) We need 5 to recall, do we not, that at this time only those 6 children that had been placed in the home by the Welfare 7 Authority would have been financially supported by the 8 Welfare Authority? 9 MR AIKEN: Yes. If we scroll down to SND-7801, questions 10 are asked about finance and we will be turning to them 11 for other reasons in due course, but if we move down to 12 SND-7801, please, and just maximise the size of the 13 page, you will see at question 17 and 18 questions are 14 asked about: 15 "... the financial resources sufficient to meet your 16 day-to-day expenses and to enable to you employ all the 17 staff you think should be employed and to have premises 18 adequate for modern standards of childcare?" 19 and the answer to that given is "Yes". Then at 18: 20 "Are there any desirable developments which you are 21 unable to undertake for reasons of financial 22 difficulty?", 23 etc, and the answer is "No". 24 CHAIRMAN: There is an express statement in 19. Can we see 25 that, please?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 "The 'events of importance' book shows that the 2 girls have enjoyed numerous outings and films during the 3 year", 4 and that all girls at school age had spent their 5 summer holidays with private families. Yes. Thank you. 6 MR AIKEN: If you scroll down slightly further, we see the 7 date of the document, October 1960. 8 If we move then to SND-6293 -- thank you -- we can 9 see this record is rather difficult to interpret as 10 to -- there seems to be one listed as "Children's 11 workroom" and then there is one listed next to the 12 "Nursery" and then there is a reference to "Infant 13 school" and "School", but whether those were also 14 involved, and then right at the bottom you can see 15 "Girls' workroom". It gives the Inquiry some idea of 16 the staff who might have been involved with the 17 children. 18 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 19 MR AIKEN: Then if we move to December 1963, if we go to 20 SND-7797, if you just maximise that page for me, please, 21 this is -- we looked at the Termonbacca version of this. 22 This was the December '63 questionnaire completed at the 23 request of the Fourth Child Welfare Council, who then 24 provided its report in 1966, and this questionnaire 25 indicates down at question 7(a), if we just scroll down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 MR AIKEN: Just move down. 2 CHAIRMAN: Yes. They say their resources are sufficient. 3 MR AIKEN: So at that point in time in December 1963 if 4 we -- that's a document, Members of the Panel, that 5 we'll be coming back to when we look at issues of 6 inspection and finance. 7 If we could go to SND-6296, we can see the staff 8 list for 1963. If you could just maximise that as much 9 as you can. You will see that the third entry, the 10 third nun entered -- we will have to fix that redaction 11 -- is someone working with children, and then this 12 expression that's further down where you can see the end 13 of the word "Bursar" you have got "Workroom" and 14 "Girls". Then somewhat further down SR61 is working 15 with the nursery. Then there are various people doing 16 the collecting, working in the laundry, then working 17 with the older people and then the teacher. So that's 18 a mid-point. We have had '60, '63 and just to finish -- 19 MS DOHERTY: Were there lay people working at this time? Do 20 we have any records that indicate? 21 MR AIKEN: Not as in -- at the moment not as in working with 22 children at this point in time. That's not to say -- 23 there may have been cooks or something of that order, 24 because there's not a cook listed. So -- 25 MR MONTAGUE: If I can assist, I have sought instructions on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 that specific point and I am waiting to hear.</p> <p>2 MR AIKEN: From some of the material it seems lay staff to</p> <p>3 work with children is a later development than this</p> <p>4 point in time, but it's something we'll look into</p> <p>5 further and assist the Panel on. So that's 1963.</p> <p>6 In March 1965, if we go to page SND-7842, please --</p> <p>7 and these are figures that were obtained updating the</p> <p>8 Fourth Child Welfare Council. Just maximise that for</p> <p>9 me, please. Thank you. These are published in Table B</p> <p>10 to the Fourth Child Welfare Council report in 1966. If</p> <p>11 we can do a bit of highlighting, if you can highlight</p> <p>12 "Bishop Street". Just "Nazareth House, Londonderry" if</p> <p>13 you come down two more. There we are. So the capacity</p> <p>14 is still said to be 140 and there are 109 resident and</p> <p>15 at that point there are 102 who are voluntary placements</p> <p>16 and there are 7 placed by the welfare authority.</p> <p>17 Just to complete the exercise, the staff list for</p> <p>18 1965 is at SND-6298. If you just maximise that for us,</p> <p>19 please, again you can see the list of the tasks that</p> <p>20 were being performed, and the tenth entry, SR59 is</p> <p>21 working with children. This time the caterer is listed</p> <p>22 and various -- just beneath the caterer SR61 is working</p> <p>23 in the nursery, and there's another member working in</p> <p>24 the nursery slightly further down the page, and another</p> <p>25 one beneath it, and just beneath "Country collecting" is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, I can hear you. Good morning.</p> <p>2 Q. HIA179, the Chairman to the Inquiry, Sir Anthony Hart,</p> <p>3 is just going to ask you about taking the oath.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN: Now, HIA179, you have a choice between taking</p> <p>5 either the religious oath or making an affirmation.</p> <p>6 They have the same legal effect. It's a matter for you</p> <p>7 which you choose. Which would you like to do?</p> <p>8 A. I'll make an oath.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN: Very well. You have a bible with you</p> <p>10 I understand.</p> <p>11 A. Yes. Here.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN: Yes.</p> <p>13 WITNESS HIA179 (sworn)</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>16 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA179. HIA179, you are now aged</p> <p>17 Is that correct?</p> <p>18 A. That's correct.</p> <p>19 Q. And you spent time at Nazareth Home -- Nazareth House in</p> <p>20 Bishop Street in Derry as a child?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. We believe that you were resident there between 1962 and</p> <p>23 1963, but as yet we have yet -- we have to receive</p> <p>24 documents to confirm that, but those as best we can</p> <p>25 ascertain are the dates that you were there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 another person working with the children.</p> <p>2 I am not going to take you back to the references,</p> <p>3 but you will recall when we looked at the guidance on</p> <p>4 staffing ratios in the context of some narrative with</p> <p>5 Termonbacca we were talking about 1:5 or 1:6 was the</p> <p>6 recommended ratio from the guidance.</p> <p>7 That's all I want to say, unless there's anything</p> <p>8 else I can assist with at the moment, Members of the</p> <p>9 Panel.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now we have a witness giving evidence</p> <p>11 by live link this afternoon.</p> <p>12 MR AIKEN: Yes.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN: What time?</p> <p>14 MR AIKEN: That I am not entirely clear about. Perhaps</p> <p>15 Miss Fisher would step out for me and just verify that.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN: It is not before 2 o'clock in any event.</p> <p>17 MR AIKEN: 2.30 I'm told.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll sit then at 2.30 this afternoon.</p> <p>19 Thank you. Very well. 2.30, ladies and gentlemen.</p> <p>20 (12.53 pm)</p> <p>21 (Lunch break)</p> <p>22 (2.30 pm)</p> <p>23 WITNESS HIA179 (called)</p> <p>24 (Appearing by live link)</p> <p>25 MS SMITH: Good morning, HIA179. Can you hear me okay?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. I agree to those dates.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Can I ask you what you recollect about how you</p> <p>3 came to be in the home, HIA179?</p> <p>4 Sorry. First of all, can I just ask that SND-10572</p> <p>5 be put up on the screen for those present in Banbridge,</p> <p>6 please? HIA179, you have in front of you I believe</p> <p>7 a copy of the witness statement that you provided for</p> <p>8 the Inquiry --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- and for the benefit of those of us here we have given</p> <p>11 you a designation, which is "HIA179". You won't see</p> <p>12 that, but can I just -- on the statement you have it</p> <p>13 says "HIA reference 179" and then it gives your full</p> <p>14 name after that. Do you see that, right up at the top?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Then can I ask you to go to the last page of your</p> <p>17 statement, which is SND-10577?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And you have signed that statement and you have dated it</p> <p>20 12th December 2013.</p> <p>21 A. That's right, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Can I ask, HIA179, this is the statement of</p> <p>23 evidence that you wish this Inquiry to consider?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Then if I can take you to that statement and ask you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 first of all on -- you say in paragraph 1 of your 2 statement when you were born -- if we can just go back 3 to the first page of the statement, please -- and where 4 you were born, and you give details about your family, 5 and you talk about your siblings, and you talk about one 6 of your siblings -- the names are there -- one who is 7 [REDACTED] years older than you. Actually you are aware she 8 spoke to the Inquiry this morning.</p> <p>9 A. Yes. I spoke to her on the phone, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Now as a result of the illness from which your mother 11 suffered and your father working in England when your 12 mother became ill in early 1962, your father was -- had 13 come home from England, but was unable to look after you 14 all and he had no choice but to leave all of you in 15 Nazareth House in Derry. Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>17 Q. Right. You were only [REDACTED] years old and you were placed 18 in the nursery along with a younger sister and 19 a brother, both of whom were special needs children?</p> <p>20 A. Correct, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Your older sisters, one of whom was also special needs, 22 and another younger sister -- sorry -- another sister, 23 they were all on the ground floor of the home.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. That was in another section for older girls.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 A. No, I can't remember any names. I think I was so afraid 2 I -- I didn't speak unless I was spoken to or asked to 3 speak.</p> <p>4 Q. You say in that paragraph that it didn't take you long 5 to sense that both the nuns and the civilian workers 6 were heartless and they seemed to enjoy abusing you and 7 treating you worse than animals.</p> <p>8 A. Yes. They were -- I remember them being cruel to us and 9 a bit sadistic. I couldn't understand why, because 10 I had never been subjected to that kind of treatment 11 before.</p> <p>12 Q. Can I ask you, HIA179, whether you had any contact with 13 your siblings when you were in the home other than the 14 brother who was --</p> <p>15 A. No, I can't recall -- well, I didn't even have that much 16 contact with him, because he was a baby. So I just was 17 basically on my own. I knew that my sisters were in 18 a different part of the home, but I never had any 19 contact with them while I was there.</p> <p>20 Q. You talk at paragraph 11 of your statement about your 21 sister, who you describe like a surrogate mother to you 22 due to your mother's prolonged illness, and you say she 23 had tried on a number of occasions to reach you but the 24 nuns and monitors always prevented her from doing so.</p> <p>25 A. That's correct. I wasn't aware of it at the time, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Can you recollect, HIA179, what your earliest 3 memory of being there was?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I was in a strange place. No-one had explained 5 anything to me. I felt vulnerable. I felt afraid. 6 Nobody reassured me. So I was probably in a state of 7 shock and I think I just zoned out. I just tried to 8 protect myself while I was there.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. Do you ever remember your father or any other 10 member of your family visiting you during your time 11 there?</p> <p>12 A. No. I had no visits that I can recall, no.</p> <p>13 Q. And is it correct that your sister told you that your 14 family -- that your father actually had to pay for you 15 to stay in the home?</p> <p>16 A. That's right, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And can I ask you -- you talk about your time there 18 being supervised -- paragraph 3 of your statement -- you 19 talk about being supervised by both nuns and civilian 20 workers.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. You do recall the name of one nun, but you are not sure 23 that was her name, but you give her name, and you can't 24 remember the names of any of the other nuns or of any of 25 the civilian workers who were there when you were there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 she told me afterwards.</p> <p>2 Q. And us. Thank you, HIA179. Can I ask you did you have 3 the opportunity to form any friendships while you were 4 there?</p> <p>5 A. No. I didn't form any friendships, because there wasn't 6 a relaxed atmosphere. I was always on my survival mode 7 and on my guard against doing something wrong. So 8 I was -- I was frightened most of the time.</p> <p>9 Q. Can I also confirm, HIA179, that you were there for 10 a period that was just over a year, about perhaps a year 11 and nine months? You were too young at this stage to 12 attend school. Is that correct?</p> <p>13 A. Correct, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And do you recall anything about clothing in the home?</p> <p>15 A. Well, we just had some kind of an outfit that you put on 16 like a pinafore with a cardigan, and I think we got 17 different clothes on Sunday, but we basically wore the 18 same thing most of the time.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes. You talk about it in paragraph 4. You say that 20 when you were brought to Nazareth House the first time, 21 you had been provided with a new set of clothing by your 22 father. Do you recollect anything about that?</p> <p>23 A. Well, I just remember being happy to get something new 24 and it didn't last long. We just had it while we 25 travelled to the home and then they took it away from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 us.</p> <p>2 Q. When you say "they", HIA179, about whom are you</p> <p>3 speaking?</p> <p>4 A. Well, the people in the home, the nuns and the workers.</p> <p>5 They just changed our clothes.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ever see your own clothes again?</p> <p>7 A. No, no.</p> <p>8 Q. Sorry, HIA179. Can I just ask you to speak up so we can</p> <p>9 get a note of what you are saying to us?</p> <p>10 A. No, no, I didn't see my clothes again. I can't remember</p> <p>11 seeing the same set of clothes.</p> <p>12 Q. You go on in the same paragraph to talk about the</p> <p>13 clothes that you had to wear on Sunday and you say that</p> <p>14 the priest came every Sunday.</p> <p>15 A. That's right, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You don't remember his name, but you remember him as</p> <p>17 being elderly and being kind.</p> <p>18 A. (Nods.)</p> <p>19 Q. Is it correct that before the priest came the nuns said</p> <p>20 something to you?</p> <p>21 A. Well, they told us to be on our best behaviour and to</p> <p>22 say we were happy there, that everything was fine.</p> <p>23 Q. And if you didn't do so, what would happen?</p> <p>24 A. Well, I presume we would have got beaten again. So we</p> <p>25 were all well-behaved when he was there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 more than one winter?</p> <p>2 A. Well, I remember it was cold a lot of the time and</p> <p>3 I remember being outside and being in the cold and not</p> <p>4 having adequate clothing.</p> <p>5 Q. And you say that there was one occasion when you got</p> <p>6 very wet and tried to get back inside --</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. -- and what happened then?</p> <p>9 A. Well, they didn't let me in. So I had to stay outside.</p> <p>10 I was wet and cold and it seemed like hours on end, and</p> <p>11 I believe led to my bronchitis.</p> <p>12 Q. You say in paragraph 8 you suffer from bronchitis and</p> <p>13 you believe it was as a result of being left out in the</p> <p>14 cold. Is that correct?</p> <p>15 A. Correct, yes, because I didn't have bronchitis before</p> <p>16 I went into the home.</p> <p>17 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 13 where you describe the</p> <p>18 circumstances in the home about bathing? You say:</p> <p>19 "The institution did not have a very high level of</p> <p>20 cleanliness. We all shared the same dirty bath water.</p> <p>21 I remember periods when all the other children were</p> <p>22 affected with head scabs. At times everybody in the</p> <p>23 home was covered in lice and fleas."</p> <p>24 A. Yes, that was part of the neglect. I don't know how</p> <p>25 often they bathed us, but it wasn't very often. So</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 Q. At paragraph 6 you talk about how you were feeling</p> <p>2 during this time and you have given a little bit of</p> <p>3 information about that, but can I ask you what you wish</p> <p>4 to say about food in the home?</p> <p>5 A. Well, I think it was basically just staple food, you</p> <p>6 know: bread, porridge, potatoes. I don't remember,</p> <p>7 I mean, anything special as far as food. I don't</p> <p>8 remember salad. I don't remember those kind of things</p> <p>9 --</p> <p>10 Q. Did you get some --</p> <p>11 A. -- food -- that food.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you get a special quantity of food, HIA179?</p> <p>13 A. Well, I remember being hungry, but I never complained</p> <p>14 about it. So I -- I didn't really pay much attention to</p> <p>15 being hungry. I think it was when I was feeling cold,</p> <p>16 I think that was the worst pain I felt there.</p> <p>17 Q. You go on to talk about that in the following</p> <p>18 paragraph when you say that you experienced feeling cold</p> <p>19 and neglected for hours on end. You say that:</p> <p>20 "The nuns would send us out into the cold without</p> <p>21 coats even during the very cold winter months for long</p> <p>22 periods of time."</p> <p>23 A. Yes. It sounds amazing, but that's what they did, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And you do remember you think it was the first winter</p> <p>25 that you were in the home. Do you remember being there</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 I suppose in an institution things happen and they</p> <p>2 spread, and I remember, you know, scratching and having</p> <p>3 head scabs and not feeling very comfortable some of the</p> <p>4 time.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you recollect were you expected to do any chores in</p> <p>6 the home?</p> <p>7 A. Maybe pick up papers or do things, but I can't remember.</p> <p>8 I can't remember cleaning or doing things like that, no.</p> <p>9 Q. And can you say if you remember anything about special</p> <p>10 occasions in the home, say Christmas or Hallowe'en or</p> <p>11 anything like that?</p> <p>12 A. No, I don't recall any parties, any festivities, any</p> <p>13 happy times, no. It was just like one long period where</p> <p>14 nothing happened except the usual routine of the day.</p> <p>15 I never celebrated a birthday. I don't remember</p> <p>16 celebrating Christmas. I don't remember receiving toys</p> <p>17 or gifts of any sort, no. I think that would have been</p> <p>18 a luxury in a place like that.</p> <p>19 Q. HIA179, do you remember anything about music in the</p> <p>20 home?</p> <p>21 A. No, no, not at all. It was mostly silent except when</p> <p>22 the kids were in the playground.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you ever see anyone or do you remember ever hearing</p> <p>24 from anyone from Social Service visiting the home?</p> <p>25 A. No, no. I don't remember -- I don't remember seeing any</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 outsiders, no.</p> <p>2 Q. When you say "any outsiders", did you ever see any</p> <p>3 senior nuns visit the home?</p> <p>4 A. No, no.</p> <p>5 Q. And -- or do you recall anybody else visiting, any</p> <p>6 charities or priests or anyone at all?</p> <p>7 A. You mean like people inspecting the institution?</p> <p>8 Q. Well, either that or just people who were coming to</p> <p>9 visit generally.</p> <p>10 A. No, I don't recall any visitors.</p> <p>11 Q. Well, HIA179, if I can take to you some specific</p> <p>12 allegations that you make, at paragraph 4 when you</p> <p>13 talked about the clothing, you do say that -- I think we</p> <p>14 have dealt with this already, where you say that you</p> <p>15 were prevented from complaining to anyone by the nuns --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- and at paragraph 5 you continue to say that. You say</p> <p>18 that:</p> <p>19 "The nuns prevented us from complaining or even</p> <p>20 rebelling by using psychological and physical abuse on</p> <p>21 a daily basis. I was beaten by the nuns and civilian</p> <p>22 staff. I was pushed and hit. I was hit sometimes by</p> <p>23 their hands or by a ruler on the hands and legs.</p> <p>24 Although I was very young, I remember them using</p> <p>25 humiliation, shame and guilt to keep us submissive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 be beaten, I could not prevent myself from vomiting all</p> <p>2 over the table. Instead of helping me the civilian</p> <p>3 worker started beating me about the head and screaming</p> <p>4 at me for making a mess. She then spooned all the vomit</p> <p>5 back into the bowl and insisted that I eat the vomit</p> <p>6 otherwise I would not be allowed to leave the table."</p> <p>7 Sorry, HIA179. Are you okay? HIA179, at any time</p> <p>8 if you feel you need to take a break, please just say</p> <p>9 and we can take a short break if you'd like to do that.</p> <p>10 A. No. I'm sorry. That's correct. That's what happened.</p> <p>11 Q. Are you happy to continue, HIA179?</p> <p>12 If I can just continue, you talk about how you were</p> <p>13 kept behind and that you felt very traumatised by this</p> <p>14 experience. As a result you haven't -- I am sorry,</p> <p>15 HIA179. Are you sure you don't want to take a short</p> <p>16 break?</p> <p>17 A. No. Let's continue, please.</p> <p>18 Q. Well, you say that you haven't been able to eat porridge</p> <p>19 and you still struggle with taking time off work,</p> <p>20 because you feel guilty for being ill.</p> <p>21 A. Correct. This is still with me today, that I feel the</p> <p>22 guilt.</p> <p>23 Q. I appreciate this is very difficult for you, HIA179. So</p> <p>24 please don't feel you have to continue. We can take</p> <p>25 a short break. You are not inconveniencing us in any</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 They called us 'stupid' and 'dirty' and belittled the</p> <p>2 children. The nuns and staff never showed us any</p> <p>3 warmth."</p> <p>4 HIA179, is that your recollection of what it was</p> <p>5 like in Nazareth House at that time?</p> <p>6 A. That's correct, except for one nun was kind and would</p> <p>7 help me sometimes to allow me to enter the convent when</p> <p>8 it was cold and warm my hands on the radiator. All the</p> <p>9 other ones were very, very cold. I think they were</p> <p>10 emotionally handicapped. They weren't equipped to look</p> <p>11 after children. It was something that they did. It</p> <p>12 seemed to be a burden for them.</p> <p>13 Q. You do go on to say that in your statement. You have</p> <p>14 already described being left in the cold and how you</p> <p>15 believe you developed bronchitis because of that.</p> <p>16 Can I also take you now to paragraph 9 where you say</p> <p>17 there are two specific experiences that you recollect?</p> <p>18 The first concerns food. You say --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- "One morning I had nausea and refused to eat the</p> <p>21 usual breakfast, which consisted of porridge. The</p> <p>22 civilian worker refused to believe I was ill and she</p> <p>23 said to me, 'You will eat'. Then she force fed me the</p> <p>24 breakfast", and you say, "All the children at my</p> <p>25 table witnessed this. Although I was terrified I would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 way. So please just take your time if you think you</p> <p>2 need it.</p> <p>3 A. I will be all right. Thank you.</p> <p>4 Q. If I go on, paragraph 10, HIA179, you talk about</p> <p>5 witnessing what you describe as the vicious beating of</p> <p>6 another girl by one of the nuns. You were in the</p> <p>7 toilets one day washing your hands when suddenly another</p> <p>8 girl came in with a nun at her heels. You don't know</p> <p>9 either the name of the nun or of the girl, but you say</p> <p>10 when she was cornered, the nun started beating her with</p> <p>11 a very thick stick from head to foot. You say she was</p> <p>12 beaten so badly that she was covered in blood and she</p> <p>13 was screaming and wailing like an animal in distress,</p> <p>14 but no-one came to help her, including yourself. You go</p> <p>15 on to describe how you felt guilty for not helping this</p> <p>16 other child. Is that correct, HIA179?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. I felt really guilty. Today I can't even believe</p> <p>18 there is any kind of justice. I just feel so bad</p> <p>19 because of that traumatic experience when I was so</p> <p>20 young. I feel guilty because I didn't help her. I just</p> <p>21 felt powerless.</p> <p>22 Q. HIA179, you did speak about one nun who let you in to</p> <p>23 warm your hands, and was there anything else apart from</p> <p>24 that one person who you feel were positive or anyone or</p> <p>25 anything that you recollect about your time there that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

1 is positive or anyone who was kind apart from this one
 2 nun?
 3 **A. No. I think she was the only one. She was the only one**
 4 **that showed any warmth and gentleness or care, and it**
 5 **was such, such a relief to have someone care and to show**
 6 **some affection and to be kind that ...**
 7 Q. You talk about this --
 8 **A. It was just good to know.**
 9 Q. Sorry. You talk about this nun in paragraph 12 and you
 10 give what you think was her name but you are not
 11 certain. Is that correct?
 12 **A. Correct.**
 13 Q. You say in paragraph 14 that you and your siblings
 14 finally escaped, as you describe it, from Nazareth House
 15 in September 1963 --
 16 **A. Correct.**
 17 Q. -- and you went home to your parents in Omagh.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. You describe that as the happiest day of your young
 20 life.
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Now if I could just ask you about life after care. You
 23 describe this in the following paragraphs in your
 24 statement. You say that you suffered from depression in
 25 your teenage years, that you had suicidal feelings and

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1 that it was with the help of psychotherapy and self-help
 2 groups that you feel you're finally coming to terms with
 3 the experiences of your early years in Nazareth House.
 4 **A. That's right, yes.**
 5 Q. You still, however, suffer from nightmares.
 6 **A. Not the one of being buried alive. The one of being**
 7 **buried alive I suffered into my 20s. Now I still**
 8 **occasionally have nightmares where I'm trying to escape**
 9 **from a faceless enemy or pursuer. So it's almost like**
 10 **it haunts me to today.**
 11 Q. You say that as a result of the difficulties you had
 12 difficulty trusting people or sustaining relationships
 13 and your first marriage broke down.
 14 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 15 Q. You have been with your current partner for
 16 [redacted] years --
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. -- and you have no children of your own, and you say
 19 that the reason for that is that you didn't want to have
 20 a child for fear that that child might suffer abuse.
 21 **A. (Nods.) Correct. That's correct.**
 22 Q. You go on to describe that your family were not rich,
 23 but that you were close and that your parents did the
 24 best they could for you, that you got what was important
 25 in life. You received a good education. In fact, you

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1 now hold [redacted] degrees. You were a [redacted] and you are
 2 currently working for a [redacted] company as an office
 3 manager and [redacted] in the [redacted] industry.
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. And you say that you are still close to your siblings in
 6 Northern Ireland, particularly two of your sisters?
 7 **A. (Nods.) Yes.**
 8 Q. And you are currently experiencing some health
 9 difficulties with regard to sensitive hands and feet and
 10 you believe that's getting worse currently.
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. And you describe in your statement that your time in
 13 Nazareth House was like a prison sentence. You thought
 14 you would never escape, and you go on to talk about the
 15 people at Nazareth House who were supposed to take care
 16 of abandoned and frightened children and feel that they
 17 failed you completely. Is that correct?
 18 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 19 Q. Can I ask, HIA179, what your feelings today are towards
 20 those who cared for you?
 21 **A. Well, for a long time I was very angry, but now I am**
 22 **a spiritual person. I do meditation, and I -- through**
 23 **meditation and my spiritual readings I understand that**
 24 **Nazareth House was a dysfunctional institution. There**
 25 **was an unhealthy culture there, and I know at the time**

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1 **it was normal to beat children, but I know that it was**
 2 **normal to neglect them or leave them outside in the cold**
 3 **to get sick, but I know today people are much more**
 4 **aware. Children are no longer mistreated or at least**
 5 **hopefully in the Western World no longer mistreated the**
 6 **way we were, and I just hope that this Inquiry will**
 7 **expose all the abuse and some good will come out in the**
 8 **end.**
 9 Q. Leading on from what you have just said, HIA179, as you
 10 know, the Inquiry has to make recommendations to the
 11 Northern Ireland Executive whether about a potential
 12 apology, or some form of appropriate memorial or tribute
 13 or form of redress. Is there anything you wish to say
 14 to the Inquiry about what you would like to see happen?
 15 **A. Well, I believe that any institution should have some**
 16 **kind of body that oversees the running of the**
 17 **institution. There should be inspections, especially**
 18 **with children that have been abandoned that are already**
 19 **helpless and very vulnerable. I don't think any**
 20 **institution should have children where they have**
 21 **complete control over them and there's no contact with**
 22 **the outside world. I believe this is what happened when**
 23 **I was in the home and this is why all this abuse**
 24 **occurred. If there'd been someone with oversight,**
 25 **I think it would have been much better for the children**

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1 **in the institution. I think it ruined a lot of lives.**
 2 Q. HIA179, is there anything that you feel that we have not
 3 covered in your evidence this afternoon that you would
 4 like to say to the Inquiry?
 5 **A. Well, I remember when I -- when I left the home, I was**
 6 **in such pain I -- we never really talked about abuse in**
 7 **the home for a long time when we were children because**
 8 **we were afraid -- I suppose we had the feeling we must**
 9 **have done something wrong and that's why we were put in**
 10 **the home in the first place and that's why noone**
 11 **explained if we were ever going to be sent back home to**
 12 **our parents. I think the mental agony was the worst,**
 13 **because we just didn't know how long we'd be there and**
 14 **it was a frightening thought to think we would never**
 15 **come home.**
 16 **I remember when I left the home in order to numb**
 17 **myself, because I had a lot of pain, I remember for**
 18 **a period I was banging my head on the wall. I mean,**
 19 **I could have done myself damage, caused concussion or**
 20 **something, but I just remembered recently that that's**
 21 **what I was doing. I was banging my head on the wall to**
 22 **try to numb the pain. So it was a very painful**
 23 **experience for me.**
 24 Q. HIA179, thank you very much. I'm going to sit down now
 25 and the Panel members may have some questions that they

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1 wish to ask you.
 2 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA179, we don't have any questions to ask
 3 you, but I know it's early morning during the day in
 4 North America where you're speaking to us from. Thank
 5 you very much for coming to speak to us in this way.
 6 That's all. Thank you very much indeed.
 7 **A. Thank you for giving a voice to the voiceless.**
 8 **(Live link disconnected)**
 9 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, that concludes the
 10 witness evidence for today. There are some
 11 administrative matters that we will need to deal with,
 12 but I don't believe there is any other evidence to
 13 present to the Inquiry today.
 14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
 15 Well, we will resume at the normal time tomorrow,
 16 ladies and gentlemen. Thank you.
 17 (3.17 pm)
 18 (Hearing adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow morning)
 19 --ooOoo--
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