

HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

Submission on behalf of SR52

1. The Inquiry is referred to the evidence of SR52¹ wherein she denies the allegations of HIA169 as follows:-
 - a) She never used a fine tooth comb on any of the girls; the seniors did but she did not supervise hair washing on a Saturday;
 - b) She had a Yale key and denies therefore striking her with a bunch of keys;
 - c) She denies thumping her or striking her with a steel ruler and told the Inquiry that all the rulers in the school were wooden;
 - d) She denies holding her down in order to change a dressing; and
 - e) In respect of her injuries aforesaid, she said that Dr Devlin came every Wednesday to the home.

2. SR52 also denied the allegations of HIA105 and denies that children were locked in their units.

3. She accepted that there may have been physical abuse against children by members of the congregation before her time but she never witnessed anything during her period in the home.

¹ Day 29

4. In hindsight she wished the sisters had known more about behavioural problems and trauma at that time. She became aware of the issue of peer sexual abuse around 1977 when reading case conference notes and becoming aware of the existence of incest. This is in keeping with the timescale opened by Senior Counsel to the Inquiry. SR52 confirmed that she attended a Child Protection Course which became available in the wake of Kincora.