
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Tuesday, 19th January 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 178)

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

1 Tuesday, 19th January 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA212 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Can I just
5 remind everyone that if you have a mobile phone, please
6 ensure that it is either turned off or placed on
7 "Silent"/"Vibrate", and also that no photography is
8 permitted either here in the chamber or indeed anywhere
9 on the Inquiry premises.

10 Good morning, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA212. He is
13 "HIA212". HIA212 wishes to take a religious oath and he
14 also wishes to maintain the anonymity afforded by the
15 Inquiry.

16 WITNESS HIA212 (sworn)

17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA212. Please sit down.

18 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

19 MS SMITH: HIA212's statement can be found at MIL077 to 082
20 and then there's an addendum and his signature at 083.

21 The Department of Justice response is at MIL809 to
22 829.

23 There is police material, which is at MIL30060 to
24 30068, which is essentially HIA212's criminal record,
25 which shows when he went into the borstal and other

1 institutions.

2 There is some other material at MIL60056 to 60108
3 and at 60649.

4 Now, HIA212, you will see that it actually has
5 been -- your statement has, in fact, been redacted. We
6 weren't sure whether or not it had been, but you will
7 see that instead of the witness statement of your full
8 name it says "HIA212" --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- which is the designation that we have given to you to
11 protect your identity. Can I just ask you to confirm
12 that this is the witness statement that you gave to the
13 Inquiry?

14 **A. It is, yes.**

15 Q. And you eventually signed it on 12th January of this
16 year?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Now, HIA212, your personal details are set out there in
19 paragraph 1. You are now aged 65. Isn't that correct?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Paragraphs 2 to 9 you describe being in Malone Training
22 School between 1965 and 1966, and, as I was explaining
23 to you, that the Inquiry is not looking at certain
24 institutions, but the Panel has read your statement in
25 its entirety and know what you say about what happened

1 to you there.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Paragraphs 10 to 13 of your statement you talk about
4 when you were in Crumlin Road Prison and that was on
5 remand. You were there in 1966 for a period of about
6 six months.

7 Then at paragraphs 14 and 15 of your statement you
8 talk about being in Armagh Prison in 1966, again for
9 approximately six months. This was the start of your
10 borstal sentence.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Isn't that correct? You were there in Armagh from --
13 which was the closed borstal --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- from March 1967, and I am not going to call up your
16 record, but that can be seen at MIL30061.

17 Then you transferred to Millisle on
18 13th September 1967, which was the open borstal.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. That's at Woburn House.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. If we look at 60650, I just want to show this, because
23 this is a document from the Ministry of Home Affairs,
24 which reads that:

25 "... in pursuance of the powers vested in it by

1 subsection (2) of section 15 of the Prison Act (Northern
2 Ireland) 1953 hereby directs that the following borstal
3 trainees, that is to say ...",

4 and your name is recorded there along with four
5 others:

6 "... at present under sentence of borstal training
7 at Her Majesty's Borstal Institution, Armagh be removed
8 to Her Majesty's Borstal Institution, Woburn House,
9 Millisle."

10 If we just scroll on down please, that's signed --
11 we can see that it is signed by the Assistant Secretary
12 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is addressed to the
13 governor of the borstal at Armagh. It is dated there
14 13th September 1967. So that is the official warrant
15 that removes you from Armagh to Millisle.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Now going back to your witness statement then at 081,
18 paragraph 16, you talk about being transferred to
19 Wood... -- it is Woburn House. It is spelt incorrectly
20 here.

21 **A. It is. It's Woburn House, yes.**

22 Q. W-O-B-U-R-N. Isn't that right?

23 **A. W-O-R-B --**

24 Q. W-O --

25 **A. W-O-R-B-U-R-N.**

1 Q. You say that it was the same thing. There was abuse and
2 other inmates would try to get into bed with you:

3 "I saw other people being abused. I do not know
4 why, but I was pretty strong, because I would not let
5 any of the other inmates touch me."

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. When you say you saw other people being abused, HIA212,
8 I take it that's other boys being abused by other boys.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Is that what you're talking about?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You say in paragraph 17:

13 "We were all in dormitories in Millisle. I think
14 there were about six people to a room. The routine in
15 Millisle was that we would have got our breakfast and
16 then we went to work. I think I worked in the laundry
17 for a short time. There were special privileges and
18 they gave you a badge. After that I would have cleaned
19 windows. I remember cleaning the prison officers'
20 windows. They would have lived just across from the
21 Woburn House complex."

22 Now if I have understood things correctly, you moved
23 through different grades, and as you moved through the
24 grade, you got more privileges. Is that correct?

25 **A. Yes. They gave you like -- we called them stripes. You**

1 **started on stripe 1 to 3 and then after that you got**
2 **special privileges.**

3 Q. And you got a badge rather than a stripe for that.

4 A. **Yes. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Is that right? Paragraph 18 here you say:

6 "Some of the members of staff would have hit you
7 a slap or a kick, but there was no corporal punishment."

8 A. **Uh-huh.**

9 Q. Now when we were talking earlier, I wondered what you
10 meant by that. What circumstances would staff have hit
11 you, or slapped you, or kicked you, and how did they do
12 that?

13 A. **They didn't need a reason to do it, you know. Some of**
14 **them I thought at the time, looking at it now, were**
15 **sadists, you know, and they just beat you, pinched your**
16 **nipples, slapped your face, grabbed you by the balls,**
17 **kicked you, you know, things like that. They didn't**
18 **need a reason. They just did it because they wanted to**
19 **or they could do.**

20 Q. This wasn't because you had been misbehaving in any way?

21 A. **No.**

22 Q. This was just --

23 A. **They looked on it as banter, but it wasn't banter. It**
24 **was -- it was punishment and sadistic punishment. You**
25 **could see that they got pleasure from doing it.**

1 Q. And you also talk there the fact that there was no
2 corporal punishment. You go on to say that you were
3 brought in front of the governor and he would have
4 punished you in whatever way he did. I was asking how
5 he would have punished you and why he might have
6 punished you. What kind of things would have led you to
7 be brought before the governor?

8 A. If -- if, say, one of -- one of the officers beat you,
9 if he beat you and you gave him -- told him to "F***
10 off" or something like that, then they would have says,
11 "You're on report" and they'd put you on report. You
12 went in front of the governor and they would have said
13 you were insubordinate. Then the governor would have
14 give you the sentence that he saw fit, depending on what
15 the prison officer said that was in charge -- that had
16 made the report.

17 Q. And I was asking what you kind of punishments the
18 governor might have imposed.

19 A. The governor would have give you -- it varied. He would
20 have give you -- it depended on how hard the prison
21 officer made his report and whether he didn't really
22 like you, but -- so he made it -- he told lies, and if
23 he made it really heavy for you, then the governor would
24 have give you three -- number one diet, three days'
25 bread and water, put in a cell with 8 ounces of bread

1 **and water for three days, and they would have took your**
2 **earnings away from you for maybe two weeks, fourteen**
3 **days of that. No association and no earnings for that**
4 **period.**

5 Q. And if the prison officer was not saying -- not going
6 hard, as it were, on his report and saying, you know,
7 "He was cheeky or whatever, but it wasn't that bad" --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- what kind of lighter punishments did you receive?

10 **A. You would have got loss of fourteen days' earnings.**

11 Q. I was asking you too, HIA212, whether all of the prison
12 officers behaved in the way that you have described or
13 was it just some?

14 **A. Just some. No, it wasn't them all.**

15 Q. And you don't remember any of the names. Isn't that
16 correct?

17 **A. No, no. It's -- that was one place that -- you know,**
18 **I can remember names in other places, but that one, no.**

19 Q. Well, I was showing you another document that we looked
20 at earlier and that's at 60649, which suggests that you
21 moved to Armagh from Millisle --

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. -- in June of 1968. It's another one of these warrant
24 documents. Your name is on it there. It is 19th
25 June 1968.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. It says:

3 "At present under sentence at borstal training at
4 Her Majesty's Borstal Institution, Millisle, removed to
5 Her Majesty's Borstal Institution, Armagh."

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Now I know from your record, and you have confirmed to
8 me, that you were released on parole -- isn't that
9 correct -- from Millisle?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And you didn't return.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Afterwards you were arrested --

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. -- and brought back, and it looks as though you were
16 supposed to go to Armagh --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- but, in fact, you said you didn't go there.

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. You actually went to Crumlin Road Gaol.

21 **A. They sent me to Crumlin Road Gaol.**

22 Q. That was because you had absconded from Millisle?

23 **A. Yes. I don't know whether it is on my record or not,**
24 **but I was given -- after a period of remand I was given**
25 **a twelve-month sentence.**

1 Q. Yes. I think that is actually -- we can see that.
2 There was a twelve months' sentence -- that is
3 correct -- on 4th December 1968 at 30062 for
4 housebreaking and larceny as well as absconding from
5 custody.

6 **A. Yes, I did that when I was on the run.**

7 Q. So that -- when you absconded from Millisle, you
8 committed an offence and you were subsequently
9 sentenced?

10 **A. Yes. I met up with fellas that I knew from Malone**
11 **Training School and they were burglars. So I went with**
12 **them ones and, you know ...**

13 Q. That's how you got that trouble with them?

14 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. I am just checking here. By the time you were sentenced
16 here in December 1968 you were almost 17. Isn't that
17 correct?

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. So would you still have been 16 when you went -- you
20 were sentenced to the twelve months' imprisonment?

21 **A. Yes. I was still young, yes.**

22 Q. Paragraph -- as I said, at 02... -- 082 you -- sorry --
23 083 you gave us an addendum statement and you speak
24 about Malone Training School in that and give a little
25 more detail and give the name of an officer whom you

1 name there --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and also about Armagh Prison in paragraph 14 of that.
4 You name a particular officer there. Again I have
5 explained to you, HIA212, that we are not going into the
6 details of that --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- but the Panel have read what you say about it.

9 Your life after you left the institutions you
10 describe in paragraphs 21 to 26 of your statement.
11 Again I am not going to go into the details of that, but
12 the Panel --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- again have read what you say there.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. One of the things you were saying to me was that Woburn,
17 Millisle was not the worst of the institutions that you
18 were in.

19 **A. No, it wasn't, no.**

20 Q. Isn't that correct?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. You felt Armagh and the Crumlin Road were worse
23 experiences for you.

24 **A. Yes, they were, yes.**

25 Q. I think you made the point that when you were first put

1 into the Crumlin Road Prison you were only 15 years of
2 age.

3 **A. I was 15, yes.**

4 Q. Your point to me was -- and please correct me if I get
5 anything wrong -- you felt you were put in with people
6 of your age now and you ought to have been separated
7 from them at the time.

8 **A. Yes. That's true.**

9 Q. Well, HIA212, that's all that I want to ask you about
10 your time in Millisle, but there's one question that we
11 ask everyone who comes to speak to the Inquiry and that
12 is about what recommendations the Panel should make in
13 its report at the end of its work to the government to
14 mark what has happened to children who were abused in
15 institutions. I wonder what your view about that is.

16 **A. What way do you mean?**

17 Q. Well, people have had different views. Some people
18 would like to see a memorial. Some people would like to
19 see some sort of education fund. Others would like to
20 see compensation paid to themselves or their families.
21 So --

22 **A. Yes. I think they should give them compensation for
23 anybody that did any -- that was abused or treated like
24 that.**

25 Q. Well, HIA212, thank you very much. Is there anything

1 more that you feel we haven't said about your time in
2 Millisle that you would like the Panel to know?

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Questions from THE PANEL

6 CHAIRMAN: HIA212, can I just ask you something more about
7 your time in Millisle specifically?

8 **A. Certainly.**

9 Q. You have described how you say some, but not all, of the
10 staff treated you very badly in the way you have
11 described --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- and if you complained, if I have followed you
14 correctly, that would be treated as insubordination and
15 you would be put on report --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- and brought in front of the governor.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. Did you ever say to the governor that you had been
20 ill-treated?

21 **A. The governor wouldn't have listened till you. You know,**
22 **it was very -- I will give you an instance. The**
23 **governor -- I was in one time with the governor.**
24 **I can't remember what I was charged with, but the**
25 **governor said to me, "Listen" -- I said, "I didn't say**

1 **that or I didn't do that". I said, "This is a lie", and**
2 **the governor turned round and says to me, "Listen", he**
3 **says, "if officer", whoever his name was, "says that you**
4 **were riding up and down on a motorbike, I'll believe**
5 **him". That's what he said.**

6 Q. I ask because we have heard or we have seen statements
7 from some witnesses to say that some of the governors
8 were sympathetic to them and tried to make sure they
9 weren't ill-treated --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- when they did make complaints.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. Can you remember who the governor was in your time?

14 **A. No, not now I can't, no.**

15 Q. Was it always the same governor that you appeared in
16 front of?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Sometimes presumably he might have been away and
19 a deputy would have been stood in.

20 **A. Not it was -- it was -- it was always the same governor,**
21 **and I wasn't there that long, you know.**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. So it was the same governor, yes.**

24 Q. Thank you.

25 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA212. Can I just ask do

1 you think staff were aware of the sexual behaviour
2 between boys, about boys having to be ...?

3 **A. I think -- I would say that they did, not all of them,**
4 **but, you know, from my observation then, and looking**
5 **back on it, I can say that a blind eye was turned.**

6 Q. To that behaviour?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. And in relation to physical behaviour between boys was
9 bullying an issue between boys when you were in ...?

10 **A. Yes, yes. Bullying was an issue. I never let anybody**
11 **bully me, but I took sides with the ones who were being**
12 **bullied, you know.**

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 **A. The ones that were bullying them I'd have said, "Leave**
15 **him alone", you know, and they listened to me.**

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 **A. They were afraid of me maybe because with the life that**
18 **I had led I was hard to all that there.**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. You know, nothing frightened me or scared me.**

21 Q. You had been through it already --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- and that ...

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Would there have been much physical fighting between

1 boys?

2 **A. Only -- the only fighting -- you had the occasional**
3 **fight, but it was more young ones, younger ones coming**
4 **in being bullied --**

5 Q. Right.

6 **A. -- and sexually ...**

7 Q. Abused?

8 **A. ... abused, yes.**

9 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA212.

10 **A. Okay.**

11 MR LANE: Can I just follow that up? What were the
12 arrangements at night? Were you all in one big
13 dormitory or smaller rooms or what?

14 **A. Yes, yes. You were -- you were -- you went to bed at**
15 **a certain time -- I think it was 8 o'clock -- and you**
16 **were locked in and that was you for the night.**

17 Q. Right, and were -- who was in charge at night?

18 **A. There was a night guard.**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. You know, there was an officer that would have come**
21 **round maybe every hour or two hours and looked in and**
22 **shone the torch in and then he just went on.**

23 Q. And so when you said the staff might have known what was
24 going on at night, would there have been any other
25 officers around who would have spotted that sort of

1 thing?

2 **A. From what I can remember there was only one night guard.**

3 Q. Yes. Right.

4 **A. Yes. There was only one night guard, and I think from**
5 **what I remember it was always the same guy.**

6 Q. And so in between his appearances the boys could get up
7 to whatever they wanted to really?

8 **A. Yes, and I remember that, you know, he did come round**
9 **when two were in the bed --**

10 Q. Yes.

11 **A. -- you know, but he shone the torch in, and if he did**
12 **see it, he ignored it.**

13 Q. He ignored it?

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. Was he more bothered about whether everybody was there,
16 do you think?

17 **A. Yes. It was a head count.**

18 Q. Yes.

19 **A. It was a head count.**

20 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

21 **A. Okay.**

22 CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. Well, HIA212, those are the last
23 questions that we want to ask you, but thank you very
24 much for coming today to discuss your experiences with
25 us when you were in Millisle. Thank you.

1 **A. Okay.**

2 **(Witness withdrew)**

3 MS SMITH: Chairman, Mr Aiken is taking the next witness,
4 but I am not sure if he is ready yet.

5 CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll rise until we are ready to start the
6 next witness.

7 (10.25 am)

8 (Short break)

9 (10.45 am)

10 WITNESS HIA272 (called)

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken?

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

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

14 The next witness today is HIA272, who is "HIA272".

15 HIA272 gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 139 of our
16 public hearings, which was 8th September of 2015, and
17 his evidence can be found at pages 58 through to 98 of
18 the transcript of that day. That was during the
19 St. Patrick's element of Module 7 dealing with the
20 juvenile justice institutions. HIA272 affirmed on that
21 occasion. So he is aware that he remains subject to
22 that affirmation. He confirmed on the last occasion
23 that he wished to preserve his anonymity and that
24 remains the position today.

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 MR AIKEN: He confirmed on the last occasion also that he
2 was born on [REDACTED] and was then, when
3 speaking to us in September, 58, but now has reached the
4 age of 59 and was pointing out to me he is looking
5 forward to his 60th birthday coming up.

6 He also explained to the panel on the last occasion
7 -- and there is a medical report, which I am not going
8 to open today -- about previous [REDACTED] difficulties and
9 [REDACTED] that has an effect on his memory
10 mostly related to short-term memory.

11 **A. Short-term, yes.**

12 Q. We dealt with the proof of his witness statement which
13 dealt with St. Patrick's on the last occasion. I am
14 just going to bring up his addendum statement, which
15 deals with his time in Millisle, which is at MIL009.
16 HIA272, if you can just take a look at the one that's on
17 the screen, which hopefully you will confirm to me is
18 your second witness statement to the Inquiry that deals
19 with your time in Millisle, save for the black marks.

20 **A. It does indeed.**

21 Q. If we move through to 011, please, we will get the end
22 of that statement. Again, HIA272, can you confirm that
23 is the second page -- sorry -- the third page --

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. -- of your witness statement? You have signed it and

1 you want to adopt the contents as your evidence to the
2 Inquiry?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. In addition I just want to give the Panel, HIA272, if
5 you bear with me for a moment, just some core documents
6 that assist with understanding your progress through
7 Millisle. We talked about the criminal record that's
8 available that helps with the dates.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. That can be found at 30001 to 30007. The record and
11 other documents that you and I were discussing this
12 morning allows us to establish that you went into
13 Millisle, the open part of -- the open borstal, as it
14 were, in Millisle, living in the stately home, on 18th
15 April 1973, when you were aged 16, shortly before --
16 ████████████████████ your 17th birthday, and
17 you remained there for ten weeks, when you absconded on
18 30th June 1973.

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

20 Q. Then you were at large, as it were, until February 1974.

21 **A. That's true.**

22 Q. We will look at the documents relating to that a little
23 later. So that's the period we are talking about, ten
24 weeks from April '73 until June of '73.

25 Your record and another document that we were

1 discussing shows you coming into borstal in the first
2 place. You had been in St. Patrick's and there had been
3 regular absconding from St. Patrick's and the result of
4 that was you came back before the court.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. I am just going to use this as an example to show the
7 Panel the type of document that would arise. If we
8 look, please, at 60338, this is the Certificate of
9 Conviction or Order arising from the absconding from
10 St. Patrick's and being brought before the court again,
11 and we talked about this legislation yesterday, Members
12 of the Panel, section 140 of the Children and Young
13 Person's Act 1968, and a conviction of
14 14th February 1973 for being unlawfully at large. That
15 resulted, HIA272, in you going to Belfast Prison --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- for processing, as it were.

18 **A. Remanded in custody.**

19 Q. Then you were taken to Armagh --

20 **A. Armagh Prison.**

21 Q. -- Prison to the borstal there.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. You have explained in paragraph 3 of your statement that
24 that was a very firm regime, but fair you felt.

25 **A. Strict but fair, yes.**

1 Q. Then as part of the grading system, the progression
2 system, that operated in the borstal you moved to the
3 closed -- open borstal at Millisle.

4 **A. I moved down for good behaviour, yes.**

5 Q. You entered Millisle on 18th April of 1973. You explain
6 in your witness statement, HIA272 -- if we look at
7 paragraph 4, please, at 009, you explain what happens on
8 that first day that you arrive at the open borstal at
9 Millisle.

10 I wanted just to pause there, HIA272, for a moment
11 and ask you about the premises. You were explaining to
12 me that all the boys lived in the state... -- the grand
13 home, house --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- that the Panel looked at photographs of yesterday.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And the shared dormitories of five or six boys to a
18 room.

19 **A. Yes, just depending. Some might have been bigger. Yes,
20 more or less.**

21 Q. And they were on the second floor?

22 **A. Second floor, yes.**

23 Q. The top floor, as it were, of the house?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And on the first floor, the ground floor -- there were

1 two floors to the house. Isn't that right?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. On the ground floor then you had the offices for
4 administration at the front of the building when you
5 went in.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Then you had the common room, the kitchen facilities and
8 the dining room --

9 **A. Dining hall, yes.**

10 Q. -- which was -- you were saying to me it was built on --

11 **A. It was along the whole back of the building.**

12 Q. -- the end and that was -- you believe around about 100
13 boys might have been in the --

14 **A. Sometimes more, yes.**

15 Q. -- in the borstal. Then separate from the main stately
16 home, as it were, you had you a gymnasium building.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You also had some workshop buildings.

19 **A. Yes, engineering shop and a couple of other ones,
20 painting and stuff.**

21 Q. They were at the back, as it were, of the premises.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. You were explaining to me as well that you were -- you
24 had land surrounding the stately home --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- and part of that was forest.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. I am just going to show the Panel how the registers were
4 kept, HIA272. So if you just bear with me for a moment.
5 If we look, please, at 25957, this is the type of
6 register record that was kept. Members of the Panel,
7 you will see that the second entry on this particular
8 page is HIA272. Your basic details, HIA272, are
9 recorded, and then if we move to the next page, please,
10 at 25958, and we try and make sure we read across at the
11 same level, you can see on the right-hand side of the
12 page, second entry down, the transfer to Woburn,
13 Millisle, which is 18th April '73. So that's the
14 register that existed.

15 If we go back then to paragraph 4 of the statement,
16 please, at 009, you explain, HIA272, that within a few
17 hours you were -- of arriving you went to the laundry.

18 **A. That's correct.**

19 Q. Can you explain to the Panel where the laundry part of
20 the building was?

21 **A. From what I remember the laundry was out of the back of**
22 **it or -- sorry -- up the stairs. Hold on. It was out**
23 **the back. I just can't remember. I remember the attic**
24 **had part to do with the laundry. It was above the**
25 **bedrooms. There was a seamstress up there, a doctor and**

1 **actually the laundry was up there as well now I think of**
2 **it. That was -- the whole roof space would have been**
3 **where the laundry was.**

4 Q. So the -- you had the ground floor and the bedrooms on
5 the first floor --

6 A. **Yes.**

7 Q. -- and then you had this --

8 A. **The whole top of the building was where the doctor's was**
9 **and the seamstress would have made the suits and stuff**
10 **like that and the laundry.**

11 Q. So the attic was converted, as it were, to provide --

12 A. **Yes.**

13 Q. -- the room for these places?

14 A. **Yes.**

15 Q. And the laundry was one of those?

16 A. **Yes. As far as I remember, yes.**

17 Q. You were sent there to be issued with your clothes?

18 A. **Yes. It was a different type of uniform. We wore**
19 **a different -- it was grey down there. It was black --**
20 **sorry -- with a grey shirt and a red tie. That was in**
21 **Millisle, whereas the closed borstal was a different**
22 **one. It was denims. So you had to go down straightaway**
23 **and you were issued with your new number. Then you were**
24 **sent to the laundry to get kitted out.**

25 So when I went into the laundry, there was Officer Skillen.

1 I was brought to the laundry -- sorry -- with another --
2 by another officer. **Officer Skillen** who was in charge of the
3 laundry, immediately grabbed me by the testicles,
4 squeezed and headbutted me when I came into the --
5 apparently this had been a ritual of his. But there was
6 another also, what they called a guy who was a trusted
7 -- a trustee more or less. He was with him.

8 Q. That is a special grade?

9 A. SP. I think some call it trustee, some SP, special
10 privileges. Then they put me into a washing machine.
11 It was like a big tumble dryer washing machine, long,
12 with the lid which lifted, lifted straight up this way,
13 back, and they put me into that there and pulled it
14 down, but now they turned it on maybe for it could be
15 ten seconds, it could be two minutes, but it was just
16 frightening, the noise of it starting while I was inside
17 it.

18 Q. Now let me just take you back then, HIA272. This is the
19 first occasion you have ever met this man --

20 A. That was the first time.

21 Q. **Officer Skillen**

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And I am right in saying that you met him -- you came
24 across him a number of times after that?

25 A. Not that close proximity -- not closely, but he was in

1 **the area.**

2 Q. Yes, and you explain to me you believe he was a Roman
3 Catholic as well --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- and was involved in taking you to chapel at
6 Donaghadee.

7 **A. He was indeed.**

8 Q. You were not someone keen to go.

9 **A. I went once or twice and then I just refused to go
10 afterwards, because I didn't believe in religion.**

11 Q. But you interacted -- he was involved in that.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. I was asking you then, "Had you ever any other
14 difficulty with him?" and you explained to me that he
15 never did anything else on you.

16 **A. The only thing was he didn't like was because I didn't
17 go to chapel. I wouldn't go for him. I refused because
18 I didn't class myself as Catholic or Protestant.**

19 Q. But he didn't -- what I am getting at is he didn't hit
20 you again --

21 **A. No, he didn't, no. No, no, no.**

22 Q. -- or he didn't grab you or anything of that sort?

23 **A. Nothing whatsoever, no.**

24 Q. This occasion on the first day when you meet him you
25 refer to him grabbing your testicles.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I was asking you to check: there was nothing sexual
3 about that?

4 **A. No, it wasn't sexual. It was just a grip. He had me
5 like that (gesturing) and headbutted straightaway.**

6 Q. It was his way of keeping you in the right place --

7 **A. Controlling you, yes.**

8 Q. -- for the headbutt.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was asking you whether you needed any medical
11 treatment after the headbutt or the grabbing of you that
12 he did and you said no --

13 **A. No.**

14 Q. -- you didn't.

15 **A. No, none whatsoever.**

16 Q. And --

17 **A. I was actually stunned, just stunned when he hit me with
18 the head.**

19 Q. And I was asking you in your statement, and you have
20 said it again to the Inquiry just now, there was a boy
21 working in the laundry with him --

22 **A. That's correct.**

23 Q. -- or, you know, it might have been an older man. He
24 could have been up to the age of 21.

25 **A. He probably would have been about 18, 19, 20, yes, that**

1 **age.**

2 Q. So he is there when you go in, and you have come with
3 another officer.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. So -- and they -- those two individuals saw this
6 happening?

7 **A. Yes. They were -- they were part of it. They helped to
8 put me into the machine.**

9 Q. I am going to come to the machine, but the assault part
10 --

11 **A. No, they didn't assault me, no.**

12 Q. But they were there and saw him do it?

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. And then they assisted him putting you into -- was it
15 a dryer?

16 **A. It was like a big dryer -- spin -- like a spin dryer
17 type thing, tumbled.**

18 Q. You were explaining to me there was like a cylinder
19 inside --

20 **A. Yes, a silver cylinder.**

21 Q. -- which was perforated?

22 **A. Yes, I can remember it so well.**

23 Q. They put you into it. Could they get all of you into
24 this sort of thing?

25 **A. Yes. I was only a small lad. I was only 16 years of**

1 **age and I was maybe 8, 9 stone. You know, I was just**
2 **small then and there was no problem lifting me.**

3 Q. And all three of them were involved in that?

4 **A. Yes, all three of them.**

5 Q. You explain, if we move down a little, please, to
6 paragraph 6, that you complained to the governor. Now
7 the governor would have been Governor **ML 57** at the
8 time.

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. And you were explaining to me that the way the process
11 worked was the day after you were committed or arrived
12 --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- you then had an interview with the governor.

15 **A. Correct.**

16 Q. And it was during that interview that you told him what
17 the three -- what **Officer Skillen** had done --

18 **A. What had happened.**

19 Q. -- in assaulting you and what the other two had helped
20 him do, putting you in the dryer.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And can you remember was it those -- you told him those
23 two parts of what happened?

24 **A. Yes. I would have told him the whole lot, because I was**
25 **actually still shocked. It was an experience I will**

1 **never forget.**

2 Q. And he told you that it would be investigated.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. But you never heard any more about it.

5 **A. He just says to me it would be looked into, which was**
6 **usual for anything, but probably was never investigated.**

7 Q. Certainly nobody talked to you about it again.

8 **A. Never again, no.**

9 Q. So you have got Officer Skillen behaving with the assault, two
10 people seeing it and not reporting anything.

11 **A. I think basically that it was like a big boys' game to**
12 **them ones. It was like a ritual. When you went in,**
13 **that's what they done with you. So nobody complained.**

14 Q. But on this occasion you did complain --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- and the governor did nothing about it either.

17 **A. Yes. No-one.**

18 Q. As I was explaining to you, the Department of Justice,
19 because of the time factor and the lack of papers, don't
20 have a file on you, HIA272. So it is not possible to
21 say whether there was anything recorded on the file that
22 might have assisted the Panel, but as far as Officer Skillen is
23 concerned they can identify a gentleman who was born on
24 2nd January 1926. So he would have been around about
25 45, 46 at the time --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- you were there. You felt that was probably round
3 about the age --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- of him. The governor from a later period has
6 explained that he was known as **Punchy**, because he was the
7 sparring partner of a rather famous boxer --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- who won Commonwealth and so on medals.

10 **A. He was well-known for his punching skills in the borstal
11 and all.**

12 Q. And that was talk amongst boys?

13 **A. Yes. People were actually terrified of him.**

14 Q. Am I right in saying, HIA272, in fairness to him other
15 than this incident that you are describing you never saw
16 him hit another boy?

17 **A. No, I did not, no. I can honestly say that.**

18 Q. I drew to the Panel's attention that the only reference
19 I can find contemporaneously in the papers is in 1974 he
20 was being commended for the very efficient way he ran
21 the laundry. The reference for that, Members of the
22 Panel, is at 24300.

23 I was explaining to you this morning, HIA272, he
24 died on 5th December 1994. As of just now, Members of
25 the Panel, we have his death certificate, which is at

1 MIL28068. I will just give you the reference. We don't
2 need to bring that up.

3 The Department of Justice has confirmed that his
4 personnel file where we might have found out more about
5 his period working in Millisle was destroyed
6 unfortunately in the year 2000. The reference for that
7 is at MIL087, but I was saying to you, HIA272, according
8 to the police there was no -- no-one ever reported this
9 man for assault or anything else at any stage until the
10 Inquiry and people making allegations about him before
11 the Inquiry.

12 In paragraph 7 of your statement, HIA272, you talk
13 about the work that you were required to do and your
14 involvement then with an LN22.

15 **A. That is correct.**

16 Q. Your recollection is that essentially your day was spent
17 scrubbing the floors in the dining hall and you were
18 explaining to me that it was a significantly large room.

19 **A. Yes. It would have been bigger than this, much bigger.**

20 Q. And also the corridors that were off the dining room.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. And that you were expected to scrub those floors
23 basically all day with a break for your lunch.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. LN22's practice was to mark the floors on you again.

1 **A. Yes. He done it and also other officers done it also,**
2 **but he was -- he was deliberately doing it. His was**
3 **deliberate.**

4 Q. So would the floor have got marked by other officers
5 just naturally?

6 **A. Maybe walking past sometimes, yes, but it wouldn't have**
7 **been the way -- he used to run his boot up the side of**
8 **it and his heels, digging them in, would have left black**
9 **marks on the marble floor, like a cream-coloured marble**
10 **floor. So therefore you had to wipe it -- get wire wool**
11 **and soap and water and on your hands and knees scrub it**
12 **off again and then re-do the whole floor and clean it**
13 **dry again.**

14 Q. You were explaining to me that you knew or the
15 understanding was you did these cleaning duties for
16 a couple of weeks and then you would progress --

17 **A. Two weeks was --**

18 Q. -- to something else.

19 **A. Yes. First two weeks everyone done them. First week or**
20 **two weeks everyone done them and then you got allocated**
21 **a job, wherever you wished to go to.**

22 Q. The point you were making to me was that for you this
23 didn't last only two weeks.

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. It went on for -- you mentioned --

1 **A. I think it was six weeks.**

2 Q. -- a month, but you think it was six -- six weeks?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. I was asking you, "Did anyone else have to do the same
5 type of work that you were doing?" and you said to me
6 that there were others who did the same type of
7 cleaning, but in different parts of the building. There
8 might have been someone working in the dining hall with
9 you --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- or working on the corridors with you at times --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- but you were the one that it lasted longest for.

14 **A. Yes. They kept me on it.**

15 Q. I was asking you, "Did anyone ever see and comment on
16 you -- you know, the fact you were doing this every day
17 for weeks rather than the normal pattern?"

18 **A. Yes. Lots of people had commented. I had actually
19 asked officers why I was on it so long and they just ...
20 (gestured). That's all you were given, because I think
21 it was about six weeks.**

22 Q. As far as -- so he didn't -- it's not that this officer
23 assaulted you or anything of that sort. It was more the
24 --

25 **A. It was mental torture.**

1 Q. Right -- how he went about --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- marking the floor so that you had to clean it again.

4 **A. Yes, and stood over you 24/7. Whatever hours you were**
5 **there, he would stand beside you the whole time.**

6 Q. During this period, HIA272, can you remember -- you
7 would finish your work and have your tea and then it
8 would be the time for the recreation --

9 **A. Yes. Association.**

10 Q. -- football -- association -- table-tennis --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- the various facilities that there were in Millisle.
13 Did you get the opportunity to do those things --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- at any stage?

16 **A. I think I got it the first -- about the first two weeks**
17 **I was given -- I was able to do it. Maybe three weeks**
18 **I was able to get association --**

19 Q. Yes.

20 **A. -- so I was, and then I refused to work, so I did. That**
21 **was about six weeks into my sentence I refused to work**
22 **and that's --**

23 Q. That refusal involved LN23.

24 **A. That was scrubbing the floors, yes.**

25 Q. Yes. Just bear with me then for a moment. As far as

1 LN22 is concerned, your interaction with him is the
2 dining room, corridor area.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. As I was explaining to you earlier, the Department of
5 Justice have said to the Inquiry that they can identify
6 two officers both by the name of LN22 who worked in
7 Millisle, but the one they have the file for didn't work
8 in Millisle until 1979. So we can be sure it wasn't
9 him.

10 **A. No, it was '73.**

11 Q. So unfortunately the file for the other LN22 was
12 destroyed in 2000. So if it -- if it was him --

13 **A. Yes, it was.**

14 Q. -- as opposed to some other [name redacted] that might
15 have worked in Millisle, then unfortunately we don't
16 have the file, and I think perhaps, as you and one other
17 mention an LN22, I will need to check whether he is
18 talking about the other one.

19 **A. Yes. It is definitely LN22.**

20 Q. And again there doesn't seem to be any other allegations
21 made to police and so on about this particular officer.

22 **A. See back then, there was no such thing as making
23 references to the police then.**

24 Q. No.

25 **A. It never went -- see anything that was said inside the**

1 **borstal, it didn't go outside the borstal. It wouldn't**
2 **have been referred to the police. See if you had been**
3 **injured, it still wouldn't have went to the police.**

4 Q. I am more talking about in later times --

5 A. **Sorry.**

6 Q. -- until the Inquiry, HIA272, but the part where you
7 refuse to work then --

8 A. **Yes.**

9 Q. -- in paragraph 9 of your statement you refer to being
10 moved then to a different area. You thought you were
11 getting off the cleaning, but it turned out that, in
12 fact, you were just getting to scrub the front of the
13 building.

14 A. **LN23 informed me I was getting moved to another job.**

15 Q. This -- was this outside or still inside of that main
16 corridor inside?

17 A. **Still -- just off the main corridor, still -- it is the**
18 **actual front of the building --**

19 Q. And --

20 A. **-- but it is inside.**

21 Q. And you were told not to be looking at the ladies
22 working in the office that you were --

23 A. **Yes. Because you were on your hands and knees and**
24 **ladies were walking past, you were told not to look at**
25 **their legs. "Keep your eyes to the floor."**

1 Q. LN23 didn't himself do -- he was the person who was
2 overseeing you.

3 A. Yes. He was standing with you the whole time, but he
4 was similar to LN22. He done the same type of thing,
5 standing on the floor, running the black marks up
6 and down and badness just to keep you there till he
7 finished his shift.

8 Q. And did anyone ever comment on him and what he was doing
9 that you remember --

10 A. He was hated by --

11 Q. -- when you were there?

12 A. He was hated by other people for other things, but as
13 regarding that I didn't bother much with people. I kept
14 to myself mostly.

15 Q. And you explain that at -- you had reached breaking
16 point and you complained then to I think it is LN24.

17 A. Yes, LN24, yes.

18 Q. Do you just want to explain to the Panel what he said to
19 you then would happen?

20 A. I refused to work. I threw the scrubbing brush and
21 stuff down, because I had been on for six weeks. I went
22 and seen LN24. What happened was I got put in the cells
23 for I think it was three to five days, something like
24 that, which meant you were in solitary confinement.

25 LN24 came to see me and informed me that if I was to

1 conform to the rules and work for two to three days just
2 scrubbing the floors, that would be the end of it and
3 I could have whichever job I chose, which I did do.
4 That's how I was -- ended up getting a job in the
5 kitchen.

6 Q. You explain in paragraph 10, just so we get the sequence
7 of this right, HIA272, that when you had refused to do
8 the work, you were referred to the governor.

9 A. I was indeed, yes.

10 Q. And it was the governor who gave you you describe it as
11 five days in solitary confinement.

12 A. Yes. It could have been three. Three to five it was.
13 I just can't -- I am not exact.

14 Q. These -- were these the cells at the front of the
15 building?

16 A. No. They were -- they were behind the PO's office from
17 what I remember. They were actually in the PO's office
18 now that it comes to me. The PO's office was there and
19 it was in the office, in the back of the office.

20 Q. And there were two or three small rooms.

21 A. From what I remember there was two cells.

22 Q. Two cells?

23 A. I think -- I think it was two from what I remember, yes.

24 Q. That's where you would --

25 A. You were left in there. There was a board. You sat on

1 **the board all day and a mattress was brought in at**
2 **10 o'clock at night.**

3 Q. And you had a -- how did you communicate then if you
4 needed to go to the toilet or ...?

5 A. **You rang a bell and waited if you needed to go to the**
6 **toilet. You were allowed to go to the toilet twice**
7 **a day, once in the morning and once in the evening.**

8 Q. You mention in paragraph 10 then that you were required
9 to answer questions.

10 A. **Yes, regarding the bible.**

11 Q. Who asked you the questions?

12 A. **An officer called [REDACTED] ML 46 was the one that mainly**
13 **asked me.**

14 Q. So you would have been effectively in their office?

15 A. **Yes. They would have come into -- no, they came into**
16 **the cell. They would have --**

17 Q. Yes. You mentioned the cell was --

18 A. **From I remember -- I just got the flashback there --**
19 **yes, it was actually in the office.**

20 Q. So they would have been able to speak to you from their
21 desks?

22 A. **No. They would have come in and opened your door, so**
23 **they would have, and come into your cell. It was**
24 **actually split from the office, if you understand. You**
25 **could walk in from where the office was straight**

1 **through.**

2 Q. Yes, and they would come in then and talk to you and ask
3 you questions.

4 A. **Yes, on the bible. They used to -- that's all you were**
5 **given. You were given the bible for to read, and I am**
6 **not a religious person. So I didn't read it. So when**
7 **I was asked the questions, I couldn't answer them.**
8 **I didn't want to answer them anyway, to be quite honest.**

9 Q. There was -- you weren't hit for not answering or
10 anything of that sort?

11 A. **No, I was not, no.**

12 Q. Then it is at that point you have engagement with LN24.

13 A. **Yes. He came into the cell to me.**

14 Q. And you were released from the solitary confinement.

15 A. **Yes. He basically had a man-to-man talk with me.**

16 Q. And he got you, you explain in paragraph 11 of your
17 statement, the job in the kitchen.

18 A. **Yes.**

19 Q. You describe as far as -- you do this work in the
20 kitchen during the day --

21 A. **Yes.**

22 Q. -- but you are still being punished in the evening time.

23 A. **That was your loss of association and privileges, which**
24 **meant you were put into -- it was a Nissan hut cut in**
25 **half. The old Nissan army huts, it was one of those cut**

1 in half, and on the right-hand side of it was maybe five
2 or six cubicles. The cubicle consisted of a partition
3 between each one and a door at the front which had
4 chicken wire on it. Just chicken wire was right up the
5 front of it, but it was bent over like that from the
6 back, the arch shape.

7 Q. Because of the shape of the hut?

8 A. Because of the shape of the hut, yes. There was a small
9 seat, which meant you were stooped into it like that
10 (gesturing). You couldn't stand up straight in it. So
11 you were there in the evenings from 6.15 -- that was
12 after your supper time and you got a quick wash -- till
13 10 o'clock at night. Then you received one cup of tea
14 and a biscuit at 9 o'clock or a cup of tea and bit of
15 bread and butter or whatever.

16 Q. They were locked?

17 A. They were locked, yes. There was a lock on them.
18 That's with the chicken wire. You could have opened it,
19 but you would have been punished badly if you had.

20 Q. That's what you describe as the doggy box?

21 A. That's the doggy boxes, yes. They were like a dog
22 kennel.

23 Q. You were explaining to me that this Nissan hut you -- it
24 was opposite the entrance that would have let you be
25 looking at the common room.

1 **A. Yes. The more I think of it now, when I look back,**
2 **there was actually lockers. It was actually a locker**
3 **room that was used as a locker room as well for the**
4 **prison officers, because there was lockers down this**
5 **side of it.**

6 **Q. But could you hear the common room where the other boys**
7 **--**

8 **A. Yes, I could hear the boys having association, whatever**
9 **they were doing, their music or whatever. "Top of the**
10 **Pops" would have been on back then. Things like that,**
11 **you know, you could just hear it, but you weren't**
12 **allowed to speak in them boxes.**

13 **Q. So the way this worked is while you worked in the**
14 **kitchen during the day --**

15 **A. Yes.**

16 **Q. -- at night-time you weren't playing football or**
17 **basketball or watching television. You were in this**
18 **cubicle.**

19 **A. Yes. That was part of the punishment just, yes.**

20 **Q. And were you still -- can you remember how long that**
21 **went on for?**

22 **A. That would have been two weeks at least, you know, but**
23 **it could have been -- usually you got boards -- what**
24 **they called boards -- that was solitary confinement --**
25 **you got that there and two weeks or else 28 days. It**

1 **was one or the other you would have got.**

2 Q. Can you remember, HIA272, before the day you absconded
3 had the confinement stopped? Were you back in normal --

4 **A. When I absconded, no, it hadn't stopped.**

5 Q. So for your entire time in the borstal at night-time you
6 were having to be in this cubicle?

7 **A. Except for about the first four weeks, three or four**
8 **weeks. That would have been it. The last of --**
9 **whatever the last -- it would have been six or whatever**
10 **many weeks. I don't know. It could have been four**
11 **weeks. The last four weeks I would have been in it,**
12 **yes.**

13 Q. In paragraph 12, HIA272, you make reference to sexual
14 predators at night-time. I am right in saying you were
15 never involved in this?

16 **A. No. I wasn't -- I was lucky enough that no-one bothered**
17 **me.**

18 Q. But you were aware of it occurring?

19 **A. I was aware of it happening beside me in beds beside me,**
20 **yes.**

21 Q. Were the prison authorities -- were the borstal
22 authorities aware of it?

23 **A. I think the borstal -- from what I can remember we were**
24 **told to be careful. From what I remember they always**
25 **told you to be careful, you know, because they knew it**

1 **was happening, but catching people at it was a different**
2 **thing.**

3 Q. And this was going on in the dormitories?

4 **A. It was going on in the dormitories and the showers.**

5 Q. Then on 30th June, HIA272, if we look at the governor's
6 report, if we look at 60355, on 30th June you had been
7 according to this -- you had escaped from the
8 establishment.

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. You and another trainee had been working in the kitchen
11 making tea for visitors and:

12 "When a check took place after visits were over, he
13 was reported to be missing. On investigation it was
14 found that he had escaped by sawing through a bar in the
15 window of the kitchen store."

16 I just want to ask you about that. Were all of the
17 windows barred in some way?

18 **A. It was a secure building. The whole building was**
19 **secure. It was called open borstal was because you**
20 **worked -- anybody who had privileges, and from I think**
21 **it was the third star or third stripe you got onwards**
22 **you were allowed outside, but once you were in the**
23 **actual house itself, it was a closed building with bars**
24 **on windows.**

25 Q. So you had identified a weakness in the system.

1 **A. Yes. I got someone to give me a hacksaw from the**
2 **building and went through the bar.**

3 Q. And you were explaining to me you had already arranged
4 for getting picked up.

5 **A. Yes, I arranged with one of the visitors, yes, to pick**
6 **me up.**

7 Q. And that's when I then, as we were speaking earlier,
8 went on to ask you so you did have family visiting then
9 each week?

10 **A. Every two weeks roughly.**

11 Q. Every two weeks?

12 **A. As often as I could get them, you know, because most**
13 **people hadn't got cars then to get down there, to be**
14 **quite honest.**

15 Q. And the sequence of events that the Panel are aware of
16 you aren't detected, HIA272, then until February of
17 1974.

18 **A. That's correct.**

19 Q. I was asking you, "How did it come to be that they never
20 found you?" and you were saying that in West Belfast it
21 was the army --

22 **A. The army was patrolling the streets. So you could have**
23 **used any name to pass by, you know. That's all it was.**

24 Q. And ultimately you were then picked up on 6th February
25 1974 and remanded to prison.

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

2 Q. And whenever -- I just want to show the Panel then if we
3 look at 60344, you were interviewed in Crumlin Road by
4 a police officer on 6th February 1974, and at that stage
5 you had been detected, HIA272, picked up for other
6 criminal offences that occurred while you were at large,
7 which was a burglary and a malicious damage, but in
8 addition to being charged with that you were charged
9 with being unlawfully at large. This officer, if we
10 scroll down a little further then, the deposition
11 explains that he put to you -- interviewed you about
12 that basically absconding from Millisle and you replied
13 to him, "I have nothing to say other than I wanted
14 a transfer from the borstal at Millisle". You then were
15 given a sentence of imprisonment for that escape.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. As part of the consideration for deciding what the
18 outcome should be reports were prepared. If we can look
19 at 60324, this is of 10th May 1974. It is prepared by
20 a Ms Berner. It may be she is from Probation. It gives
21 your family background, HIA272, and then the borstal
22 governor's remarks. If we scroll down a little further,
23 we can see he gives the dates that you entered and then
24 leaving on 30th. You can see:

25 "After a short period on general cleaning duties he

1 was allocated to work in the kitchen."

2 Then he describes the escape and the report to the
3 police. Then he says this:

4 "This young man never made any attempt to settle
5 down in borstal and was only waiting for the opportunity
6 to escape. It was perfectly clear that he intended to
7 follow the same pattern he set up in the training school
8 where he had already absconded about 26 times."

9 I think when we looked at St. Patrick's, HIA272,
10 there was a lot of absconding and being brought before
11 the court.

12 **A. Yes. You see, I can actually remember back then.**

13 **I asked him -- I asked that governor would he refer me**
14 **back to -- what do you call it -- Armagh Prison, because**
15 **I knew I was going to escape. I asked him at the time,**
16 **but the reason I said was because I was being -- the way**
17 **things was being handled there. I was made scrub**
18 **floors. So I wanted back to the other place and they**
19 **wouldn't send me back. That's why I escaped then.**

20 **Q. The conclusion that the report reaches is that:**

21 "Due to his attitude and the nature of the offence
22 we can't recommend borstal training",

23 and ultimately then you are given a sentence of
24 imprisonment.

25 You were describing to me, HIA272, when we were

1 speaking earlier, that you felt in Millisle Borstal that
2 you were treated like an animal.

3 **A. Yes, I was indeed. That's why I actually asked, as**
4 **I said to you there, the governor to move me back to the**
5 **closed borstal, because you were treated as a man there.**

6 Q. HIA272, normally, as I explained to you earlier, at the
7 end of someone's evidence I ask them two questions about
8 recommendations. We dealt with that on the last
9 occasion.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. So I am just going to ask you the second of the two
12 questions, and that's whether there's anything else
13 about your time in Millisle Borstal that I haven't
14 covered, or haven't got quite right, or haven't covered
15 in the depth that you would have wanted to explain. Now
16 is your time. If there's anything else you want to
17 explain to the Panel, if you take the chance to do that
18 now.

19 **A. I just feel that if I had been treated like a human**
20 **being, I would have stayed and finished off my time.**
21 **It's just I was treated like an animal from day one from**
22 **I complained. I wasn't given a chance, and as you can**
23 **see there, I mean, my behaviour just previous to it in**
24 **Armagh was perfect. I was down within eight weeks down**
25 **from the closed borstal to the open, because I was quite**

1 **happy, but to be treated like an animal on the floors,**
2 **I rebelled, and that's as simple as that. I wouldn't**
3 **conform.**

4 Q. HIA272, I am not going to ask you any more questions.
5 If you stay where you are just for a short while, the
6 Panel Members may want to ask you something.

7 **A. Right.**

8 **Questions from THE PANEL**

9 CHAIRMAN: HIA272, you said that you complained about the
10 way you were treated on the very first day when you saw
11 Governor **ML 57** the next day.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You say that he told you that it would be looked into
14 but you never heard anything. Is that right?

15 **A. There was never another word about it, no.**

16 Q. If I have understood what you said correctly, what you
17 believe from what happened and what other officers said
18 to you was that you spent all that time scrubbing floors
19 because you had had the nerve to complain.

20 **A. Yes, because apparently people were just saying, "Man**
21 **up. It happens to everyone".**

22 Q. Yes.

23 **A. That's basically what it was.**

24 Q. Yes, and certainly Governor **ML 57** never came back
25 to you about it?

1 **A. No. I very rarely seen the governor, to be quite**
2 **honest, unless you asked a request.**

3 Q. Did he come round the borstal during the day to see what
4 was happening?

5 **A. No, no.**

6 Q. He didn't do rounds in that sense?

7 **A. No. Not when I was down there, no. It was too small**
8 **a place, you know, because he knew everything that was**
9 **happening. Sunday you may have seen him, but very rare.**
10 **I never seen him myself.**

11 Q. So your ten weeks or so in Millisle was spent largely
12 under some form of punishment of one form or another?

13 **A. It was six weeks I was actually doing the floors and the**
14 **other four would have been working in the kitchen --**

15 Q. Yes.

16 **A. -- which -- I was actually doing the punishment while**
17 **I was doing the kitchen work.**

18 Q. The punishment was the loss of association in the
19 evening.

20 **A. Yes, association, yes.**

21 Q. And --

22 **A. Association and earnings. You earned no money.**

23 Q. I see. Can I ask you about the abuse of boys -- sexual
24 abuse of some of the boys who were there by other boys?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And you said that you were told to be careful.

2 A. Yes. I was told that.

3 Q. Who was it who told you? I am not clear about that.
4 Was it the governor or some of the staff or the other
5 boys?

6 A. No, it was some of the staff who told us, the staff that
7 told us that there was predators in there, "Be careful",
8 when you first went in at the start, and then there was
9 a boy who I mentioned -- I don't know whether
10 I mentioned his name here or not -- was sexually abused
11 in the room that we were in. He was forced by two other
12 lads. There was a couple of them went to bed. I don't
13 -- I turned, and to be quite honest it was fear more
14 than anything else, but from what I hear afterwards that
15 same person had been abused on numerous occasions by
16 different guys in the showers and also in the
17 dormitories.

18 Q. Did the staff patrol the showers or the dormitories --

19 A. There used to be a staff member who stood --

20 Q. -- to keep an eye on what was happening?

21 A. That was a staff member who stood outside the door of
22 the showers, so there was, but never went into them.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Just gave you your towel going in or whatever it was.

25 That's all -- or soap or whatever it would have been.

1 **Sorry. It was a razor. He gave you a razor going in.**
2 **You would have shaved at the sinks and then into the**
3 **showers.**

4 Q. Was it a communal shower --

5 A. **Yes.**

6 Q. -- in the sense that there were two or three showers or
7 were there cubicles?

8 A. **There was about -- I think there was about ten together.**

9 Q. I see.

10 A. **So they would have.**

11 Q. So the prison officer remained outside --

12 A. **Yes. He just stood over where the razor blades were so**
13 **that no-one touched the razor blades unless you gave him**
14 **one and got it replaced.**

15 Q. Were these disposable razors?

16 A. **No. They used to give you the old 7 o'clock razors,**
17 **Gillette Sword and them razors, you know the**
18 **old-fashioned one --**

19 Q. I think I know what you mean, yes.

20 A. **-- with the wobbling brush you had. That's what it was.**

21 Q. I see. Did anybody come round to check the dormitories
22 at night?

23 A. **They did indeed. They came round every couple of hours,**
24 **so they did, but they wouldn't have -- I think they used**
25 **to clock -- there used to be an old clock on the wall**

1 **and they used to turn a key in it.**

2 Q. I see. Some sort of way of showing that the --

3 **A. Yes, and it registered.**

4 Q. Like a punch card type thing?

5 **A. Yes. It was an old thing that was on the wall and**
6 **that's what they done. That was -- I think it would**
7 **have been every -- it could have been every hour, but**
8 **I think it was every couple of hours.**

9 Q. Did you ever see any of the officers patrolling at night
10 surprising boys engaging in sex in the dormitory?

11 **A. No, no. The officers were more concerned I think of**
12 **security --**

13 Q. Yes.

14 **A. -- more than anything else, to be quite honest.**

15 Q. And did they have an absolutely regular pattern or would
16 they come in unexpectedly?

17 **A. No, it was regular, because when I -- the time I was**
18 **going to escape was -- I was checking out to see which**
19 **way would have been the easiest and I noticed that they**
20 **were regular. So, you know, I chose a different way.**

21 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

22 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA272. Can I just ask: we
23 have heard about a Visiting Committee.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. Do you remember that? Did you have any contact with

1 them?

2 **A. In Armagh Prison, yes.**

3 Q. Just in Armagh, but not in Millisle?

4 **A. Never in Millisle. Not when I was there, no.**

5 Q. You didn't see them --

6 **A. Also Long Kesh, all the places, every one of them had**
7 **a Visiting Committee.**

8 Q. But you -- but you weren't aware of one in Millisle?

9 **A. Never in Millisle. Not in my time.**

10 Q. Okay. Thank you, HIA272.

11 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA272, I am sure you will be relieved to
12 hear that those are the last questions we have to ask
13 you.

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. Thank you very much for coming back to speak to us
16 again. I am sorry that we have had to bring you back
17 a second time, but when someone like you has been
18 through a series of places, it is very complicated for
19 us to try and deal with everywhere you were on one
20 occasion.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. So I am sorry about that. It is just the way we have to
23 work.

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

25 Q. But thank you for coming again today. Thank you.

1 **A. Thank you.**

2 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, I know that
3 Ms Smith has another oral witness.

4 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

5 MR AIKEN: I will have a short matter to summarise for you,
6 but if we could take a short break before I do that.

7 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We'll just rise for a little while.

8 That's all. Thank you, HIA272. You are free to go.

9 **A. Thank you.**

10 **(Witness withdrew)**

11 **(11.35 am)**

12 **(Short break)**

13 **(11.55 am)**

14 **WITNESS HIA162 (called)**

15 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

16 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. Our next
17 witness today is HIA162, who is "HIA162". HIA162 has
18 already given evidence in Module 7 on Day 140, which was
19 9th September of last year, and he wishes to maintain
20 the anonymity afforded to him then and today.

21 His witness statement is at MIL039 to 045.

22 The Department of Justice gave a response statement
23 in Module 7, which is at SPT1407 to 1419, and there is
24 a further statement at MIL092 to 093.

25 There is some material from the Department of

1 Justice, which is at MIL25954 to 56 -- to 64 -- sorry --
2 and then 40012 to 13, and 40208 to 40225.

3 There is -- HIA162's criminal record can be found at
4 30020 to 30025.

5 Now, as I have indicated, HIA162, you have given
6 evidence previously, and your personal details are set
7 out in paragraphs 1 to 3 of your statement, which
8 hopefully should be on the screen. Yes. We have gone
9 through that.

10 Paragraphs 4 to 18 of your statement deals with the
11 time that you were in St. Patrick's Training School,
12 which we talked about on the last occasion.

13 Paragraph 17 of your statement, which is at
14 page 043, just at the bottom of that page there you talk
15 about -- you talked about having complained to someone
16 you thought who was from the Welfare, a welfare officer
17 in St. Pat's, about what was being done to you, and you
18 said that about six months after you made that complaint
19 you were sent to borstal in Millisle.

20 Now do you link the two things, the fact that you
21 made the complaint, or was it just coincidence that it
22 was six months later?

23 **A. No, I related them.**

24 Q. You related them. You also -- when we were talking
25 earlier, you go on here to say that you were visited by

1 two Brothers in the Crumlin Road Gaol. I will come back
2 to the fact that you were in the Crumlin Road Gaol in
3 a moment. You didn't think that the Brothers would go
4 to visit a boy in a gaol, and you said that the Brothers
5 recommend to the court that you had to leave
6 St. Patrick's, because they cannot control you. So it
7 was odd they would take the time to visit you is what
8 you thought.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. Now again you felt that you went to borstal because the
11 Brothers recommended that you do so. Isn't that right?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Although you would accept that your criminal record
14 shows that you were sentenced to borstal training after
15 committing an offence of burglary and malicious damage.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. I don't think we need to call that up, but it is there
18 on your record. What you were telling me, HIA162 -- and
19 please correct me if I have got this wrong -- is that
20 you had run away from St. Pat's. You couldn't go home
21 to your dad, because he was getting into trouble because
22 -- for harbouring you.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. So you and a friend broke into -- was it a pub that you
25 broke into?

1 **A. A pub, yes.**

2 Q. And caused some damage when you were in the pub, which
3 then led to you being sentenced to borstal.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. But you link the fact that the Brothers couldn't control
6 you and wanted rid of you -- you feel if they had said,
7 "We will take him back in St. Pat's", then that's where
8 you would have gone?

9 **A. Yes, because the Brother who came to see me was the**
10 **teacher. I had complained that I wasn't -- school in**
11 **St. Pat's you didn't even have a book. I have no memory**
12 **of ever having any book. So I was complaining about**
13 **that Brother. So for him then to come down and visit**
14 **me, you know ...**

15 Q. You just didn't understand that?

16 **A. I didn't understand it, no.**

17 Q. Well, what we can see from your record is that you were
18 remanded in November of 1975 and then on 17th
19 December 1975 you were committed to borstal. You were
20 saying that you initially went to the Crumlin Road Gaol.
21 That's where you were on remand.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. When you got the sentence of borstal training, you went
24 from the Crumlin Road to Magilligan. Is that right?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Okay, and the Crumlin Road and Magilligan were both
2 being used as closed borstal accommodation at that time.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You said that -- and if I have got you right -- the
5 reason you didn't go to Armagh was because there had
6 been a riot in Armagh --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- which caused it to be closed down --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- which meant that you had to go to the Crumlin Road.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You describe being there. You were in D wing.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you say you were sectioned off from the adult
15 prisoners.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say you were steeled off. How -- I mean, how
18 physically were you actually ...?

19 A. Well, if you imagine, the wing was sort of -- part of
20 like a steel sheet. Say maybe ten cells at the end of
21 D wing. They put a steel sheet up, and then D wing was
22 the long-terms, like, you know. We had to go through
23 that to go anywhere, you know --

24 Q. And these were --

25 A. -- but they would all be locked up if we were going

1 **through.**

2 Q. So they were put into their cells while you had to walk
3 through, past their cells.

4 A. **Yes, yes, yes. Go down for our dinner. Protection was
5 beneath us, you see.**

6 Q. So from the Crumlin Road you went to Magilligan and from
7 there you were then transferred to Woburn House in
8 Millisle.

9 A. **Yes.**

10 Q. You seem to have been transferred there on 21st April
11 1976. Would that be about right?

12 A. **Yes.**

13 Q. You were there until the November '76 and then maybe
14 went back to Magilligan. Is that right?

15 A. **No. I was there to July.**

16 Q. So July?

17 A. **July, because it was the summer.**

18 Q. Okay, and you got out, and then you went back in again.
19 Is that ...?

20 A. **No, I run away and was sent back to Magilligan.**

21 Q. Okay, and you were eventually released in May 1977?

22 A. **Yes.**

23 Q. So in all your borstal experience, if you like, was
24 between the ages of 16 and 18?

25 A. **Yes.**

1 Q. Now just coming on to your statement at paragraph 19, if
2 we can just scroll down, please, you say:

3 "Borstal was very violent but there was no sexual
4 abuse to my knowledge."

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Now that wasn't Millisle that you are talking about in
7 that sentence. Isn't that right?

8 **A. Well, there was no -- I can't remember any -- you know,
9 any of that stuff in the whole of the borstal, you know.
10 You would hear people say things, I mean.**

11 Q. Sorry. Maybe I have not made myself clear, HIA162.
12 That sentence that you have written there in your
13 statement that:

14 "Borstal was very violent but there was no sexual
15 abuse to [your] knowledge",
16 you were not actually talking about Millisle when
17 you said it was very violent. That was the Crumlin Road
18 that you were talking --

19 **A. No. That was, you know, where they break you in.**

20 Q. You say you were beaten on your first day there. Again
21 you are talking about the Crumlin Road?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. I was asking you, "Who beat you?" You were saying it
24 was the prison officers.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. You said you were taken to an office, which was a cell
2 effectively, and you were surrounded by prison officers,
3 who then beat you.

4 **A. Yes. Everybody got beat the first day, everybody.**

5 Q. Then you go on to talk about a prison officer who you
6 name here who ran the laundry. Now at this stage you
7 are talking about Millisle. Isn't that right?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. I am going to use the name, but you can see that we have
10 blacked it out here. So it is not to be used outside
11 the chamber. That was someone called **Officer Skillen**

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- **Punchy** being his nickname. That's how he was known.
14 You go on say:

15 "He used to pretend to rub up against you in front
16 of everyone and everyone thought it was funny. One day
17 he hit me over the head with a hammer."

18 I am just going to explore that a little bit, if
19 I may, with you, HIA162. You were saying that you had
20 run away and were brought back to Millisle.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. While you were away, the vest that you had been given,
23 you used that to clean your bottom.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. When you brought -- when you were brought -- you brought

1 it back into the laundry to get it cleaned and that's
2 when this --

3 **A. No, it was thrown away. I didn't have it.**

4 Q. You didn't have it. So there was -- somebody who was
5 working in the laundry made some comment to **Officer Skillen** Is
6 that right?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Maybe you can explain it in your own words.

9 **A. Well, you know, he would throw you, say, a shirt and, as**
10 **I say, one of his workers might grab the shirt and throw**
11 **it back and say, "He is not wearing that. He is not**
12 **wearing that" and then he'd, you know -- but there was**
13 **like a lot of jest to this here, you know. This wasn't**
14 **like, you know ...**

15 Q. You were saying a lot of it was jesting and banter?

16 **A. Everybody found it funny except the person it was**
17 **happening to. You know what I mean?**

18 Q. I was asking how many boys actually worked in the
19 laundry. You think there were two or three at most.

20 **A. Two, maybe three at the most.**

21 Q. So there was banter between him and the boys who worked
22 in the laundry. They kind of picked on those boys who
23 came to collect clothes. Was that how it operated?

24 **A. Aye, but, I mean, **Officer Skillen** would run into the canteen as big**
25 **as this place here and he would just grab a guy and**

1 start, you know, as if he is shagging him basically and
2 everybody would bust out laughing and find this
3 hilariously funny.

4 Q. So this --

5 A. This happened -- this happened nearly every day, like.

6 Q. This was a common practice of his?

7 A. It was seen as -- we thought at the time it was funny.
8 It is funny if it is not you, like.

9 Q. You go on to talk about one day he hit you over the head
10 with a hammer.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Maybe if you could just explain about that again.

13 A. Well, that was over the vest. See, when I run away, we
14 -- you did a month's solitary confinement and then I was
15 handed back to Magilligan. It's when I came back from
16 Magilligan that the guys in the laundry were saying,
17 "Remember, Officer Skillen he threw your vest away" and he -- he
18 -- you know, he took all his stuff like as his. You'd
19 thrown his vest away. Then he held me over and he
20 started to do that there (gesturing), and then when
21 I pushed back, he grabbed a hammer -- it wasn't a big
22 hammer -- and he hit me on the head, like not sore,
23 like, you know, just enough to let me -- you know, I was
24 trying to get out of this position, and to make sure
25 I didn't move he hit me over the head with the hammer.

1 CHAIRMAN: HIA162, just so it is clear what it is you are
2 alleging, because we can see what you are demonstrating,
3 but to try and turn it into words for the transcript,
4 you are saying that before he hit you with the hammer
5 **Officer Skillen** had simulated having sex with you. Is that right?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. But in jest.**

9 Q. Oh, yes, but that's what the gestures you were making
10 demonstrated?

11 **A. I didn't find it funny at the time.**

12 Q. No, I understand that, but that's what he was doing?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 MS SMITH: You were saying you were trying to break away.
15 So he had a hammer beside --

16 **A. Trying to get out of the situation. He'd a hammer just
17 sitting there. He just lifted it. He didn't hit me
18 hard. He hit my a tap on the head, like. It was him
19 telling me, "Don't move".**

20 Q. It didn't hurt you or anything like that?

21 **A. Well, it hurt a bit, well, I mean.**

22 Q. There was no injury?

23 **A. I didn't have no cuts or anything, no.**

24 Q. You go on to say that -- sorry. Just you say:

25 "It was extremely regimented in borstal and there

1 were rules for everything."

2 I take it you are talking across all the places that
3 you were in borstal, not just Millisle?

4 **A. Millisle was like the -- it was relaxed compared with**
5 **other places.**

6 Q. You described -- you said it was quite boring at times
7 in Millisle.

8 **A. It was very boring.**

9 Q. You had to get up you said at 6 o'clock in the morning
10 --

11 **A. 6.00.**

12 Q. -- and you sat there until 8.30.

13 **A. Before you left the canteen.**

14 Q. You said the first month that you were there, though,
15 you had to scrub floors. Is that right?

16 **A. Everybody -- for your first month there you had to scrub**
17 **floors. Because I had run away, I had to do it for two**
18 **months.**

19 Q. You do -- you said that there was a sectarian division
20 within Millisle not caused by those who were in charge
21 but by the boys themselves.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Is that right? They just gravitated towards their own
24 type or their own kind really. Is that what happened?

25 **A. They had one half of the canteen and we had the other**

1 **half. They had half of the common room and we had the**
2 **other half of the common room.**

3 Q. You made the point to me that when you were leaving, you
4 did say to the governor that he should try to get people
5 to mix more.

6 A. **A lot of people did mix, you know. You know, we'd chat**
7 **away to each other, you know.**

8 Q. You go on to say here in paragraph 19:

9 "If I didn't follow the rules to the letter, then
10 I would be beaten by the staff. The prison officers
11 were tough and were always looking for faults in what
12 I was doing or the state of my cell. If there was
13 a problem, then I was either beaten or locked up for the
14 day."

15 Now is that generally across the borstal or is that
16 specific to Millisle?

17 A. **No, that again is Crumlin Road or Magilligan. Millisle**
18 **hadn't even got cells. Millisle was bedrooms.**

19 Q. I think you did say to me that the prison officers in
20 Millisle didn't wear a uniform.

21 A. **No.**

22 Q. They wore their ordinary clothes.

23 A. **Civvies.**

24 Q. You say it wasn't as bad in comparison to the other
25 places that you were. Is that right?

1 A. Uh-huh. Well, you see, anybody got out of hand there
2 they sent them straight back to Magilligan. So, I mean,
3 you never really had no nutters.

4 Q. Now just to be clear, when we were talking earlier about
5 Officer Skillen, the Inquiry has received a statement from a
6 Mr McLoughlin, who was a former governor of Millisle --
7 assistant governor I should say. I am not going to call
8 it up, but at paragraph 54 of his statement, which is at
9 722, he said that he recalled the atmosphere in the
10 laundry where Officer Skillen worked as being good humoured and
11 relaxed. Is there anything you want to say to the
12 Inquiry about that?

13 A. If you worked for him, he didn't bother you. It was the
14 guys who worked for him who, you know -- they were
15 enjoying this, you know. So they would do anything to
16 get a back of craic going. So, I mean ...

17 Q. They perhaps encouraged him to behave in the way he did?

18 A. Aye. You know, like, when he threw me, say, a vest,
19 they grabbed it there and threw it back to him and said,
20 "He is not wearing that. It is too wee" or something
21 and that's -- then they knew that he would -- you know,
22 that would make him mad then. So they were having
23 a whale of a time.

24 Q. He has also been described as a caring man who was
25 respected. Is that your memory of him?

1 **A. I mean, to be honest, I thought of him as a lunatic and**
2 **a nutter. If you met him on the street, you would think**
3 **he's a -- you know, because he had a shake and**
4 **everything, like, you know.**

5 Q. Well, I mean, I am not going to ask you anything more,
6 unless there is anything that you feel you have not
7 covered with the Inquiry about your time in Millisle.
8 Now is your opportunity.

9 **A. Uh-huh. I can't think of anything.**

10 Q. Well, the Panel may have some questions for you, HIA162.
11 You did tell us about the Inquiry recommendations the
12 last time you spoke to us.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 **Questions from THE PANEL**

15 CHAIRMAN: HIA162, can I just ask you to make it clear --
16 I think I understand what you are saying -- the attitude
17 which Officer Skillen displayed towards people like you, to some
18 extent this was bought about by other trainees who
19 worked for him, as people say nowadays, winding him up
20 --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- and then he would -- would he lose control of himself
23 in some way or ...?

24 **A. I wouldn't say he would lose control but, I mean, he --**

25 Q. Or was he playing along with him, if you see the

1 difference?

2 **A. He played along, but he always looked angry, you know,**
3 **when he was doing it, you know.**

4 Q. I see, and you described earlier that -- I think you
5 were saying that he really regarded all the clothes, all
6 the kit, as his personal --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- responsibility, and if you didn't look after it, he
9 would get angry.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Is that right?

12 **A. That's more or less it, yes.**

13 Q. It is described as the laundry where he worked, but was
14 it the place that you went to be issued with clothing,
15 for example?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. And if you presumably grew out of or tore something, you
18 would go to the store --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- call the laundry and you'd get a replacement. Is
21 that the way it worked?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And also -- excuse me -- you said that, in fact, your
24 view was that Millisle was not as bad as the
25 ill-treatment you say you described in other places that

1 were acting as a closed borstal.

2 **A. Millisle was open and it was the place -- you couldn't**
3 **get released unless you had been to Millisle. So**
4 **Millisle was like relaxed compared to -- you see,**
5 **Crumlin Road was to break you in. So by the time you**
6 **got to Millisle you were supposed to be, you know,**
7 **behaving yourself, and if you didn't, they sent you**
8 **straight back again anyway for another couple of months.**

9 Q. Thank you very much.

10 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA162. Can I just ask: did you feel
11 there was anything sexual about how Officer Skillen behaved? Did
12 it feel that there was a sexual agenda there?

13 **A. I don't think so, because he done it in front of**
14 **everybody. You know what I mean? He would run into the**
15 **canteen and do this. Say somebody said, you know,**
16 **somebody had done something wrong, he would run to the**
17 **canteen and grab this guy. Everybody in the canteen**
18 **would be laughing. So, I mean ...**

19 Q. So it was kind of about showing somebody up as opposed
20 to ...?

21 **A. Aye. Yes, yes. I would say so, yes.**

22 Q. Good, and other staff would have been around at that --
23 you know --

24 **A. Yes. They'd have been -- everybody would have been**
25 **laughing. This was, you know ...**

1 Q. Everybody thought it was funny?

2 **A. If it wasn't you, you would find this hilarious at the**
3 **time.**

4 Q. Okay. We have been told about a Visiting Committee in
5 Millisle, that there would be people that would come and
6 visit regularly and talk to the boys. Do you remember
7 that?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. You have no memory of that?

10 **A. There wasn't.**

11 Q. There wasn't?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. And in relation to the governor, would you have seen him
14 round the place as opposed to just in his office?

15 **A. Rare. You would rarely see him.**

16 Q. He would mainly be somebody that you would go and see if
17 you were on report or something?

18 **A. If you wanted to see the governor, you just made**
19 **a request in the morning and then you would go and see**
20 **the governor, you know, or the doctor or the welfare,**
21 **you know. You made a request first thing in the**
22 **morning.**

23 Q. Did you ever request to go and see the governor in
24 Millisle?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. No. Okay. Thanks, HIA162.

2 MR LANE: Just going back to the question of **Officer Skillen** and the
3 sexual bit, was there ever any suggestion that he was
4 sexually abusing any of the lads?

5 **A. I don't think so, no.**

6 Q. No.

7 **A. I never heard nothing.**

8 Q. Thank you.

9 **A. He was a bit of a character sort of, you know.**

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA162, thank you very much for coming to
11 speak to us. That's the last question we have today and
12 I think I am right in saying it is the last time we will
13 ask you to come back.

14 **A. Okay.**

15 Q. I hope we explained the last time that, while it is not
16 ideal bringing people back, it is simply too difficult
17 to cope with --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- descriptions of different places that people like
20 yourself were in at different times, but thank you for
21 coming to speak to us today.

22 **A. Okay.**

23 MS SMITH: Mr Aiken has just one more piece of evidence to
24 present.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's all, HIA162. If you would like to

1 leave now, you can do so.

2 **A. Thank you.**

3 **(Witness withdrew)**

4 **Evidence of HIA262 dealt with by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

5 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken?

6 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, I am going to
7 deal with the evidence of HIA262, who is "HIA262".
8 He supplied the Inquiry with a medical note explaining
9 why he was not in a position to give oral evidence
10 during Module 3, the Rubane module. It was of 16th
11 October of 2014, and it can be found at 90003.

12 I summarised his Rubane evidence to the Panel on Day
13 59 of our public hearings on 21st October 2014 and that
14 can be found at pages 79 to 94 of the transcript.

15 I also summarised his evidence in the St. Patrick's
16 part of Module 7 on Day 137 of the public hearings of
17 4th September 2015, and that can be found at pages 66 to
18 72 on the transcript.

19 As has been the Inquiry's position, we communicated
20 again with HIA262 in respect of this module on the basis
21 that his position hadn't changed in terms of his medical
22 condition that he was explaining was not permitting him
23 to come and give oral evidence.

24 As a result, Members of the Panel, we have the
25 witness statement that we've previously looked at added

1 to the Millisle bundle, which runs at 025 to 038.

2 There is only one paragraph that deals with Millisle
3 and what HIA262 wanted to say to the Inquiry about that.
4 That's paragraph 37. If we can bring up, please,
5 MIL036.

6 I should say, Members of the Panel, we have treated
7 HIA262 with anonymity up to now --

8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

9 MR AIKEN: -- and we'll proceed --

10 CHAIRMAN: We have no reason to believe that he has changed
11 his position.

12 MR AIKEN: No.

13 CHAIRMAN: It appears that he wants to keep anonymity.

14 MR AIKEN: No. In this paragraph what he is describing is
15 essentially an absconding incident where as a result of
16 it he says he received a caning from two officers that
17 he names. Unfortunately the way the redaction has been
18 done -- one of them was Officer Skillen, who was, according to
19 Duncan McLoughlin, the officer given responsibility to
20 carry out the caning, the corporal punishment.

21 You will recall us looking at the rules yesterday,
22 which required the Medical Officer and the governor to
23 be present, and it was something that would be awarded
24 by the Visiting Committee.

25 The other officer that he names as being involved in

1 the process of holding him down over a bed, which is
2 what Duncan McLoughlin describes as the way in which it
3 was done, was an ML6, and the Department have said to
4 the Inquiry that there is no record of an ML6 ever
5 working in Millisle, but in any event the matter that's
6 being described appears to be an exercise of corporal
7 punishment, which was permitted by the rules, and there
8 is nothing in what is contained in paragraph 37 to
9 suggest it was done outwith the rules.

10 CHAIRMAN: Can we just establish -- is it possible to
11 establish what age HIA262 was when he arrived in
12 Millisle, because he may have been over 18 perhaps
13 and therefore outside our terms of reference?

14 MR AIKEN: Yes. It is difficult to be clear about this,
15 because he was born on [REDACTED]. From his criminal
16 record, which is available at 30012 to 30019, if we can
17 bring up 30012, please, we can see that he -- if we just
18 scroll down, please, to the entry of 2nd February 1971,
19 we can see that he was convicted at Belfast Recorder's
20 Court on 2nd February 1971. So at that time he would
21 have been 17 -- sorry -- he would have been, yes,
22 17 years [REDACTED] in effect, because his 18th
23 birthday would have been [REDACTED]. He is given the
24 borstal training sentence. You can see that he
25 continued to reside in the borstal until his release

1 under supervision on 8th January 1973, by which time he
2 would have been 19. So there would have been
3 a [REDACTED] period when in the borstal he was under the
4 age of 18 and then the rest of his sentence he would
5 have been over the age of 18, and it is not clear from
6 the documents at what stage he says he absconded. The
7 pattern had been a period of up to potentially three
8 months in a closed borstal. So if that was the pattern
9 here, his arriving in the borstal in Millisle might have
10 been shortly before his 18th birthday, and depending on
11 when the absconding and corporal punishment was
12 administered, it may or may not be before or after his
13 18th birthday.

14 CHAIRMAN: This is one of the cases where we do not appear
15 to have a contemporary file on him that would reveal
16 some of this information.

17 MR AIKEN: No. There are documents that have been produced
18 which deal with some offences of discipline in and
19 around the period '71/'72 and there is a [name redacted]
20 in those documents, but it's [name redacted], his
21 brother, that we have also dealt with in Millisle and
22 St. Patrick's, and who gave a medical to the Inquiry for
23 his inability to attend. So there are records of [name
24 redacted] being punished, but not his brother, HIA262,
25 who is the HIA262 I am dealing with at the moment.

1 What I can say to the Inquiry is, using the type of
2 records we were looking at yesterday, if we look at
3 27962, please, we can see, if we can rotate that round,
4 please, this is the 1971 Home Office Services report.
5 We can see in table 5 that there were 27 escapes or
6 attempted escapes in 1971 and 29 canings, and then for
7 1972 if we look at 27738, please, we can see from
8 table 14 that in 1972 there were seven escapes or
9 attempted escapes and one caning.

10 Now the difficulty with these figures, Members of
11 the Panel, is that one can't be certain that they all
12 relate to Millisle in that at various points and I was
13 showing you yesterday the difficulty of Armagh Borstal
14 opening, closing, boys moving to Millisle, moving back
15 to Armagh in terms of the closed borstal.

16 So -- but certainly it is the case that in both '71
17 and '72, which would cover HIA262's period before he
18 left -- sorry -- HIA262's period before he left on 8th
19 January '73, there were escapes and attempted escapes
20 and there were canings taking place.

21 Perhaps of note in fairness to Officer Skillen, who you have
22 heard about, paragraph 37 of HIA262's statement, if we
23 go back, please, to 036, HIA262 was in the borstal for
24 21 months and the only adverse matter that he draws to
25 the Inquiry's attention is an act of corporal punishment

1 for absconding. So he does not suggest that in any
2 other way at any other time he had any difficulty with
3 either Officer Skillen or any other officer in terms of making
4 allegations of abuse.

5 CHAIRMAN: And what he describes is consistent with the
6 example that Mr McLoughlin gave that you referred us to
7 yesterday where he stopped a caning episode where the
8 medical officer was present and couldn't continue and
9 I think he described the person being held over the bed
10 --

11 MR AIKEN: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN: -- or being bent over and being held by two
13 prison officers. So that seems to have been the way it
14 was administered.

15 MR AIKEN: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

17 MR AIKEN: So unless there is anything else I can assist the
18 Panel with, I don't propose to say anything more about
19 the evidence of HIA262.

20 CHAIRMAN: I don't think so, and it is fair just to point
21 out that, although he says he was hit with a cane, he
22 does not elaborate in terms of whether, other than the
23 caning itself, that he had any complaint about the
24 manner in which it was administered.

25 MR AIKEN: Indeed.

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, we have finished somewhat earlier than
2 anticipated. We will resume tomorrow at the usual time.

3 Thank you.

4 (12.25 pm)

5 (Inquiry adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

6 --ooOoo--

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