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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Thursday, 21st January 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 180)

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

1 Thursday, 21st January 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA416 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Can I remind everyone, as always, please ensure  
5 if you have a mobile phone, that it has been turned off  
6 or placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate", and may I also remind  
7 everyone that no photography is permitted either here in  
8 the chamber or anywhere on the Inquiry premises.

9 Good morning, Ms Smith.

10 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
11 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA416. He is  
12 "HIA416". HIA416 wishes to take a religious oath and he  
13 wishes to maintain his anonymity.

14 HIA416, can I just check that you can hear me all  
15 right? I know you have hearing difficulties. You can  
16 hear me?

17 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

18 Q. Thank you.

19 WITNESS HIA416 (sworn)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down.

21 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

22 MS SMITH: HIA416's witness statement is at 069 to 076.

23 The DoJ response is at MIL799 to 808.

24 There's a response statement of I think it is MZ1 at  
25 MIL798.

1           There's also police material at MIL30057 to 59.

2           HIA416, can I just ask you to confirm -- can you see  
3           the document on the screen?

4   **A. I can, yes.**

5   Q. Can I ask you to confirm that this is the witness  
6           statement that you gave to the Inquiry?

7   **A. Yes, it is.**

8   Q. You will see there that your personal details are set  
9           out there in the first three paragraphs.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You are now aged 53, if I've got my maths right.

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

13 Q. You were in Millisle between January 1979 and  
14           January 1980.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. There's a document at 60633 that shows that. I don't  
17           think we need to call it up, but that's where the  
18           register is for your time in Millisle.

19           At paragraph 4 of your statement here, HIA416, which  
20           is on the screen now, it says that you were brought --  
21           when you were brought to Millisle first of all, you were  
22           brought into the canteen, which was full at the time  
23           when you arrived.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. You were told that you had five minutes to eat. You had

1 not eaten all day, because you had been at court.

2 An officer asked if anyone wanted more bread. You put  
3 your hand up and he told you to "Get the fuck out" of  
4 there. He then took you into the corridor and battered  
5 you. You were then brought to a cell. You say that  
6 night was the worst night of your life, as you did not  
7 know what was going to happen to you the next day.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. That was your first experience in Millisle.

10 **A. That was my first experience, yes.**

11 Q. Can I just confirm this was 1979 and you would have been  
12 17 at that stage?

13 **A. No, I was --**

14 Q. You would have been 16?

15 **A. I was [REDACTED] 16 [REDACTED]**

16 Q. The next morning, paragraph 5, you say you were given  
17 black boots, a black jacket made of cloth and trousers  
18 and you had your hair shaved.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. An officer told you that you didn't have a mother or  
21 a father and that was officers in charge were your  
22 parents now. He then said you were only a number and he  
23 gave you a number, which is blacked out there. He told  
24 you that they had you for three years. He then slapped  
25 you. As you said, you had just turned 16 at that stage.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. Paragraph 6 and 7 you describe the assessment wing. You  
3 say that you had to learn how to make a six pack, which  
4 consisted of a blanket and then a sheet.

5 "It was the way the army had to make beds. The  
6 staff would come in and measure the beds to make sure  
7 they were made right. Your comb and toothbrush had to  
8 be a certain distance away from each other, the right  
9 side up and facing each other. The staff would come in  
10 and inspect our rooms. We had to shine our boots so  
11 that we could see our faces in them. If they checked  
12 your cell and found any dust on their fingertips, they  
13 would wreck the whole bed and you would have to tidy it  
14 all. I cleaned my cell and the officers would still  
15 find dust. I think they must have had this on their  
16 hands already out of badness. I would then have to  
17 clean the whole cell again."

18 You say that:

19 "There were individual cells in the assessment wing  
20 but after one or two weeks passed you were put into  
21 a double cell. In the room there was a chair and  
22 a bible, but you weren't allowed to sit on the chair."

23 **A. No. Once we got up in the morning, we made the bed pack**  
24 **and made our bed with the toothpaste and toothbrush and**  
25 **comb and that at the bottom of the bed, and things had**

1 to be -- the bed pack was like a blanket, a sheet,  
2 another blanket and a sheet and a sheet wrapped round  
3 them and they had to be square and the blankets had to  
4 be that thin, and it wasn't easy to make, but that's why  
5 when we went in -- when we went into the assessment  
6 wing, somebody was allocated to us to help us -- that  
7 was already in the assessment wing -- to learn how to  
8 make the bed pack and learn how to do all this.

9 Q. Okay. So this was another boy in the wing, was it?

10 A. Yes. Somebody was allocated to show you how to make the  
11 bed pack, what way to set your bed out and where your  
12 boots would be sitting and all that there, like, you  
13 know.

14 Q. When you say you weren't allowed to sit on the chair,  
15 HIA416, was that just simply whenever your cell was  
16 being inspected?

17 A. No, all day. You were not allowed to sit on it until  
18 you were locked up again that night.

19 Q. All day you weren't to sit on it. Okay. Paragraph 8  
20 you say you were then moved on to another wing after the  
21 reception wing, but this is still in the closed borstal.  
22 Is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. A man whom you name there -- I am going to use the name,  
25 but I just remind people that none of these names are to

1 be used outside of this room. You say that he was  
2 called ML8.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. He was in charge of the wing.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. On one occasion you were getting washed:

7 "... and I was asked if I shaved. I said that I did  
8 not need to shave as I didn't have any hair to shave.  
9 ML8 then smacked my face and said I was to do what I was  
10 told. I had never shaved in my life before and I wasn't  
11 sure what I was doing. We were made to stand to  
12 attention, and if we did not do this, we would be  
13 slapped. We were made to train like we were in the army  
14 and the same officers used the same tactics as the  
15 army."

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

17 Q. When you were saying about standing to attention, apart  
18 from the weekend parade --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- where you stood to attention outside, if -- you were  
21 saying that if you were in the corridor and prison  
22 officers came past, you had to stand to attention.

23 **A. You had to stand against the wall to attention, yes.**

24 Q. And give out your name?

25 **A. And give your name and number.**

1 Q. You go on to talk then that:

2 "The inspections of the cells continued each  
3 morning. The governor would inspect our cells on  
4 a Saturday morning and your cell had to be twice as  
5 clean. During the day we would be taken to the gym to  
6 exercise and sometimes we would be put into the boxing  
7 ring for a minute and we were supervised by a member of  
8 staff."

9 You thought that member of staff was a man called  
10 ML12.

11 "We each had a PE uniform to wear."

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. Paragraph 10 you talk about being made to scrub and  
14 polish the floors each morning:

15 "We used a big wooden box with bricks inside it and  
16 a blanket underneath it as a buffer for the floors. The  
17 buffer was very heavy",

18 and you say you now have tennis elbow in both arms  
19 as a result of manual labour.

20 "We were made to buffer the floors as a form of  
21 punishment."

22 You were always telling -- also telling me you think  
23 that is maybe where you sustained a back injury also in  
24 doing that, HIA416.

25 **A. Yes, I think so, yes, yes, because I had no injuries to**



1           **my back -- this was in the open borstal now. I had no**  
2           **injuries to my back when I was in the closed borstal at**  
3           **all.**

4    Q.    You go on to say:

5            "Each day we had to sit at the table and chair in  
6            our cells as we were not allowed to sit or lie on the  
7            bed until bedtime. We were locked up all day during the  
8            summer. We did not have the opportunity to exercise or  
9            associate with other inmates. When it came to the  
10           winter, we were taken outside and made to exercise in  
11           the rain."

12   **A.   Yes.**

13   Q.    Now can I just be clear: are we talking about the open  
14           or closed borstal at this ...?

15   **A.   Closed.**

16   Q.    Closed, and were things easier when you moved to the  
17           open borstal?

18   **A.   Oh, yes. You didn't have to make your bed pack and you**  
19           **didn't have to -- you got -- you didn't have to wear the**  
20           **wee black uniform. You wore jeans. It was different.**  
21           **Any -- the wee slightest things were even better, like.**  
22           **It was like when you were getting out of the open or the**  
23           **closed borstal, like, it was on your -- you were sort of**  
24           **on your way home. You know, you were nearer there. You**  
25           **thought the worst of it was over.**

1 Q. You go on to say in paragraph 12 that:

2 "The only reading material we were given was  
3 a bible, which was in our room."

4 Again this was only when you arrived. Isn't that  
5 right, HIA416?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Later on you were able to get newspapers and things that  
8 were brought by your family and I presume there were  
9 books, maybe a library that you could have used?

10 **A. Yes, yes.**

11 Q. "Every evening we were locked in our cells from 8.00 pm.  
12 I did not ask to get out of my cell to use the toilet  
13 after lock-up for fear of being punished by a member of  
14 staff. We used to use the newspaper in our room as  
15 a toilet and then throw the parcel out of the window of  
16 our cell. I remember one morning I was looking out the  
17 window and the groundsman who was walking around told me  
18 that I needn't point at him. The next thing I knew ML8  
19 came into my cell and started to slap me for putting  
20 what he called 'a mystery parcel' through the window."

21 You go on in paragraph 13 to talk about the family  
22 visits that you had.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. Your eldest brother and your sister came to visit you.

25 Your brother was upset and never came back again after

1 the first visit, but your sister continued to come and  
2 see you. When some of the boys from the town where you  
3 were from were admitted, your sister was able to get  
4 a lift up then to visit you with their families.

5 **A. That was after I was in the open -- in the open borstal,**  
6 **there was a few [REDACTED] boys were put into the closed**  
7 **borstal.**

8 Q. Right.

9 **A. So we were able to get parcels -- stuff sent down to me,**  
10 **you know.**

11 Q. You say:

12 "Visiting was on a Saturday and you were all  
13 gathered together in the common room. If you had  
14 a visitor, your name was called."

15 Your mum visited you the Christmas before you were  
16 released.

17 You go on then to talk about the open borstal,  
18 HIA416. You say:

19 "There were two separate wings. There was a green  
20 wing for country people and a blue wing -- a blue one  
21 for Belfast people."

22 You say that there was a distinction made by the  
23 prison officers between the country boys and the Belfast  
24 boys.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. There was a workshop for joinery and metalwork. You  
2 chose to do metalwork. As you said, you were allowed to  
3 wear your jeans in the open borstal.

4 **A. Yet.**

5 Q. When we were talking earlier, you couldn't be sure how  
6 long you had spent in the closed borstal, but you think  
7 --

8 **A. No, I got it sort of near enough, you know, right.**

9 **I thought it was maybe six months or so, but it mightn't**  
10 **have been. I know when I came out of the closed borstal**  
11 **all I could see was the ocean. I could see the whole of**  
12 **the ocean and the house where the open borstal was and**  
13 **--**

14 Q. And you think as best you can --

15 **A. -- I can't really put the time that I was in the closed**  
16 **borstal. I am not really sure, like.**

17 Q. It may have been between three and six months.

18 **A. It would have to have been, because I had to do six**  
19 **weeks in the --**

20 Q. Assessment?

21 **A. -- assessment wing and then maybe about eight weeks up**  
22 **in ML8's landing and then you were moved from there to**  
23 **the open.**

24 Q. Okay. Well, certainly you felt that once you moved to  
25 the open borstal that the worst part of your time was

1 over. Is that right?

2 **A. Oh, yes. You didn't have to make bed backs anymore and**  
3 **you didn't have to have stuff -- you could just make**  
4 **your ordinary bed. Wee simple things, like.**

5 Q. Well, I am going to come now to what you say in  
6 paragraph 15 here. You say that you were in the canteen  
7 one day and word was going around that there were new  
8 jackets and jeans in the laundry. The laundry was not  
9 just where clothes were washed, HIA416. It was where  
10 clothing was kept. Is that right?

11 **A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

12 Q. You say:

13 "At dinner time I went down to try and get a jacket  
14 for myself. There was a boy who worked in the laundry  
15 and he was standing at the door. I entered the laundry  
16 and I heard him shout, **Punchy** he is stealing jackets.  
17 Get him. Get him'. **Officer Skillen**, you say, "was the main guy  
18 in the laundry and he had a bad reputation. He made us  
19 call him 'boss'. He would always punch you when you  
20 walked past him. **Officer Skillen** then came in and closed the door  
21 and told me I was going to get my star burst. Two boys  
22 held me over the press. **Officer Skillen** then took my trousers down  
23 and shoved the shaft of a brush up my backside. After  
24 this I never went back near the laundry and I have never  
25 spoken to anyone about this incident."

1           Now I am going to -- we were talking about this  
2           incident earlier, HIA416, and I am just going to get  
3           from you a bit more detail about this.

4     **A. Yes.**

5     Q. You were saying that this man had a bad reputation and  
6           you tried to avoid him at all costs.

7     **A. All the time, yes. All the time.**

8     Q. So whenever you say that you went down to try to get  
9           a jacket for yourself, you explained to me that it was  
10          at dinner time and you thought he wouldn't be there.

11    **A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

12    Q. You also explained that there were normally two boys who  
13          worked with him in the laundry.

14    **A. Yes.**

15    Q. You describe them as "big fellas". They would have been  
16          older than you?

17    **A. Older than me, like, yes.**

18    Q. These were the two boys who held you?

19    **A. Yes, over a press.**

20    Q. And when you said that -- I was asking about this --  
21          what he had done to you. You describe that he pulled  
22          down your trousers, but your underwear was still on.  
23          You were still wearing your underpants.

24    **A. Yes, yes.**

25    Q. The brush that was used was just an ordinary floor brush

1 for sweeping up the floor. Is that right?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Please correct me if I have got anything wrong.

4 **A. No, that is right. That is right, yes.**

5 Q. He wasn't trying you say to penetrate you with the  
6 brush. It was more that he thought it was funny. Is  
7 that right?

8 **A. Well, I think he probably did think it was funny maybe  
9 in front of the two boys as well and that was -- that  
10 was his reputation, and that's what he did.**

11 Q. You were saying that he had a reputation; that you had  
12 even been warned about him before you left the closed  
13 borstal. Is that right?

14 **A. In the closed borstal we were warned, "Watch **Officer Skillen**  
15 **Avoid him at all costs", like.****

16 Q. And you -- I was asking you whether you thought --  
17 I mean, you felt that you were sucked into going down,  
18 because all these other boys were talking about free  
19 jackets and that.

20 **A. Yes, yes, yes, yes. Well, every so often there would be  
21 a new batch of denims that comes in or whatever. I had  
22 been down before at dinner time to get jeans and there  
23 was nothing happened, like. I got my jeans all right,  
24 you know, when I went down at dinner time. This time  
25 **Officer Skillen** was there. He was in the office.**

1 Q. When you got the jeans, he hadn't been there?

2 **A. Pardon?**

3 Q. When you went and got the jeans on the previous  
4 occasion **Officer Skillen** wasn't there on that occasion?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. I was wondering -- I mean, people have described to the  
7 Inquiry how he would have come up behind boys and might  
8 have even done this in the canteen, for example, and  
9 simulated sex with them. Did you ever see that?

10 **A. I did, yes.**

11 Q. The other thing that I was wondering about was looking  
12 back on it, what he was doing to you this time when you  
13 went to try to get the jacket, did you at the time see  
14 that as him doing something sexual to you, or was it  
15 just that he was trying to humiliate you, or how did you  
16 feel?

17 **A. I thought it was more humiliation. There was**  
18 **gratification sexually. Whatever he got out of it --**  
19 **I don't know him, like -- I couldn't -- I can't say.**

20 Q. I was also asking --

21 **A. I know when I was held I was struggling and the two boys**  
22 **were holding me on the press and he was trying to shove**  
23 **that -- shove that brush up my backside when I had my**  
24 **underwear on -- yes -- and I was struggling and that and**  
25 **struggling and that. He just penetrated me a wee bit**



1           **and that was it.**

2    Q.    You were saying that after this you were sore, but you  
3           don't believe --

4    A.    **Yes, because I had my underwear on, and after I just**  
5           **went up and lay on my bed, waited till the workshops**  
6           **were ready and went back up to the workshops.**

7    Q.    You never reported this to anybody, HIA416?

8    A.    **You couldn't report it to anybody.  If I had reported**  
9           **that to anybody, I would lose my chances of getting**  
10          **special privileges.**

11   Q.    You go on to say in paragraph 16 that he -- you remember  
12          he brought you to mass.

13   A.    **Yes.**

14   Q.    You say that -- one of the things you said to me was  
15          that he seemed to be very religious.  He was a Catholic  
16          and you couldn't understand why he did that to another  
17          Catholic.

18   A.    **Yes, I couldn't understand that.**

19   Q.    You remember an occasion where there were two boys who  
20          went missing, who absconded when you were at mass.

21   A.    **Yes.**

22   Q.    He went into a rage over that.

23   A.    **Oh, yes, yes, yes.  You know, when he ever got them boys**  
24          **back in borstal what he was going to do to them, what he**  
25          **wasn't going to do to them and how dare they -- how dare**

1           **they -- how they ever fucked -- he was even cursing --**  
2           **try and escape from The Lord's house. How dare they**  
3           **escape from there!**

4    Q. Well, paragraph 17 here of your statement you go on to  
5    talk about when you injured your back. We were  
6    discussing you thought that might have been as a result  
7    of polishing the floors. You informed the staff, but  
8    they didn't believe you. They thought you were trying  
9    to avoid activities. They phoned home and asked your  
10   mother if you had ever had back problems in the past and  
11   she confirmed that you did not have any back issue prior  
12   to that. She then tried to get your own doctor to go to  
13   Millisle to see you, but he wasn't allowed in. You were  
14   then taken to hospital and your back was x-rayed. You  
15   were told there was nothing wrong with it. When you  
16   were made to stand to attention, you could hardly put  
17   your foot on the floor due to the pain that you were in.  
18   You were then punched for not standing to attention.  
19   You had to scrub the chairs -- sorry -- stairs as  
20   punishment. This was -- the standing to attention was  
21   when you were made to parade in two lines and you could  
22   not do that. That was you were saying to me every  
23   Saturday --

24   **A. Every Saturday morning, yes, you would --**

25   Q. -- you would line up outside.

1 A. -- line up outside the front of the borstal house and  
2 have your boots shined and show your nails and your  
3 teeth and everything is all done and your buttons or  
4 whatever and all that, like.

5 Q. The governor would go up and down?

6 A. Yes, he would go up and down the line and come back up  
7 and down the line and I was standing -- if I can just  
8 show you, I was standing like that there (gesturing),  
9 because I couldn't put my foot on the ground. I didn't  
10 know what the pain was, but I know what it is now. It  
11 was sciatica I had, and the governor asked what was  
12 wrong with me and I says, "I have a sore back and  
13 I can't put my foot ..." You see, before I went out on  
14 that parade I was already in the hospital room for three  
15 days. Right? They put me -- it was a room away at the  
16 end, a wee room away at the end, as far away as he could  
17 get from any office or anything, and he told me when the  
18 pain was away, let him know and I'd get back again.

19 Q. I think you talk about this here in paragraph 18. You  
20 said you were eventually put into the hospital room.

21 A. Yet.

22 Q. You were given tablets. You think they were  
23 painkillers. You were left there for three days with no  
24 way of contacting anyone. Your dinner was taken off  
25 you.

1 **A. No, my dinner was taken up to me.**

2 Q. Up to you?

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. Your leg was so bad that you had to pretend that it was  
5 better so that you could leave the room.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You now know, as you said to us, that you had sciatica.

8 You go on in paragraph 19 here to talk about another  
9 incident. You say you were all gathered in the workshop  
10 on one occasion when you were threatened by another boy.  
11 He told you that someone from East Belfast was going to  
12 get you because you had apparently said something about  
13 them and you had not said anything.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You say that sort of intimidating behaviour amongst the  
16 boys was common.

17 **A. Yes. It would have been like anybody -- like somebody**  
18 **going down and saying to** Officer Skillen **like, "HIA416 has never**  
19 **got his star busted" or something, like, or "HIA416 said**  
20 **this about you", or "That HIA416 fella said this". As**  
21 **far as I got from them, it was that time we had pigs and**  
22 **chickens in our back garden. We were real country --**  
23 **country compared to Belfast city people, who thought**  
24 **that we were backward. We come from a house with**  
25 **chickens and pigs in our back gardens and we're**

1 **countrymen, like.**

2 Q. So you were bullied and intimidated because you came  
3 from the country. Is that what you are saying, HIA416?

4 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

5 Q. And certainly -- the next line doesn't really make  
6 sense, because you said:

7 "When everyone went into the workshop, you had to  
8 remove your boots."

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. The fact is when you came out of the workshop that you  
11 had to take your boots off. Isn't that right?

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

13 Q. And you would sneak -- instead of going into the  
14 changing room, where you were supposed to take off your  
15 boots, you would sneak back to your room and take your  
16 boots off there. That was an attempt to avoid these  
17 boys who were threatening to get you essentially. Is  
18 that right?

19 **A. It was. Yes, yes, yes, yes.**

20 Q. You said you knew you were going to get a beating in the  
21 changing room before the workshop. That's why you did  
22 that.

23 **A. That's right, yes, day after day.**

24 Q. You go on to say that you were eventually put into  
25 a dormitory with a few other fellows. You say there was

1 always bullying and hurting each other. During the  
2 night you remember hearing -- I am not sure what this --  
3 you would hear the squealing and crying I think is what  
4 you were trying to say.

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

6 Q. You stayed awake as these boys were taller than you and  
7 you had to stay alert in case they started to hold you  
8 down and beat you.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. You remember one of these boys was a boy called ML9.  
11 I~am just going to use the first name. You say he  
12 always wanted to fight. Sorry. I think I have given  
13 the wrong designation for **Officer Skillen** He is an ML number  
14 I think. You say there was a prison officer called MS1  
15 (sic) -- that's MZ1 -- I am just going to use the name;  
16 again it is not to be repeated -- who punched and  
17 slapped you.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. I was asking if you could remember when he punched and  
20 slapped you.

21 **A. I can't remember when. I remember I was going down into**  
22 **the canteen for my tea. I had been late for the canteen**  
23 **or something like that there. I just cannot remember**  
24 **why it was, but it happened.**

25 Q. You described him as a big man and you said --

1 **A. Very big man. Very big, yes.**

2 Q. He was someone you avoided at all costs is how you  
3 described him to me.

4 **A. Pardon?**

5 Q. You said he was someone you avoided at all costs.

6 **A. At all costs, yes, yes, yes.**

7 Q. You saw him you say hit others. You remember  
8 a particular boy called [REDACTED], who was a traveller.  
9 You remember him being hit by this man.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. I am going to come back to -- you know we have got  
12 a statement from him and I will come back to that in  
13 a moment.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. You say he was a very big man and you knew not to report  
16 anything to him, because if you did, you would end up  
17 having to serve the full three years of a sentence.

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

19 Q. You said that he was a senior officer and --

20 **A. Yes. He was an SO or PO or something like that, see.**

21 Q. But he was someone, if you had a problem, you were  
22 supposed to go to?

23 **A. Yes. That's who you would have to go to to report if**  
24 **you had a problem and somebody done something or**  
25 **whatever, like.**

1 Q. Now there is a mistake in your statement here, because  
2 it says that you think that ML9, the boy ML9 was in  
3 cohorts with and we know that MZ1's name is given there,  
4 but you were telling me it was a different officer that  
5 you thought he was in cohorts with. It wasn't MZ1.

6 **A. Yes, yes, it wasn't MZ1 that was with ML9 --**

7 Q. It was another man?

8 **A. -- in cohorts with ML9. Yes, it wasn't MZ1.**

9 Q. You say that both ML9 and this other prison officer  
10 wanted you to lose your special privileges.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. And you say that it was brutal.

13 **A. Once you get your special privileges you have twelve  
14 weeks till you are released.**

15 Q. And that's what you were working towards?

16 **A. If they had done anything in between that there, then  
17 you lose your privileges and then you are put back.**

18 Q. You go on to say that this boy ML9 always wanted to  
19 fight you. You were giving me a bit more detail about  
20 that. You would say that he would actually say to you,  
21 "I'm going to fight you tonight".

22 **A. Yes. "You have to fight me tonight in the dorm." Yes?  
23 I would just be worried, in fear for what -- do you know  
24 what I mean? You knew you were going to have to go into  
25 the dorm and you knew something was going to happen.**



1           **You knew you couldn't report it. You just had to lie in**  
2           **bed and take the punches.**

3    Q.    You actually refused to get out of your bed to fight  
4           him. Is that right?

5    A.    **I did refuse to get out of my bed to fight him, yes, but**  
6           **he still came over and beat me.**

7    Q.    Well, you know that the Inquiry has received a statement  
8           from MZ1.

9    A.    **Right.**

10   Q.    That's at MIL798, please, if we just look at that. Now  
11          he has been given, as I was explaining to you, a copy of  
12          your statement. That's why he refers to the  
13          paragraphs that are in your statement here. He says  
14          that paragraphs 4 to 7 of your statement:

15                 "Although there are no specific allegations made  
16                 against me in these paragraphs, I wish to confirm that  
17                 I~worked in an open borstal where there were no cells."

18                 That is correct. You only encountered this man in  
19                 the open borstal. Isn't that right?

20   A.    **Yes, it was only in the open borstal, yes.**

21   Q.    He said:

22                 "HIA416 refers to incidents that took place in the  
23                 closed borstal where I did not work and I therefore  
24                 could not have been involved in the incidents that  
25                 allegedly occurred."

1           You would accept that entirely. You didn't  
2           encounter him in the closed borstal?

3   **A. I didn't say it was the -- anything about the closed**  
4   **borstal.**

5   Q. Paragraph 20 he says -- that we have just been looking  
6   at, he says:

7           "I deny the allegation made against me. I worked in  
8           the control room and not in the dormitories where this  
9           is alleged to have taken place and I did not take part  
10          in any acts alleged.

11          I was a prison officer for 38 years and not a single  
12          allegation was made against me. I was brought up as  
13          a devout Christian and I can honestly say that I never  
14          treated the prisoners with contempt, nor did I abuse  
15          them in any way."

16   **A. Yes, he did. He was feared. People were that fear --**  
17   **scared of him that nobody would report anything.**

18   Q. Well, we know --

19   **A. I didn't mention -- I didn't say that it was in the**  
20   **closed borstal. I don't know whether there was a mix-up**  
21   **or not. I only met him when I was in the open borstal.**  
22   **That's the only time I mentioned his name, from the open**  
23   **borstal.**

24   Q. Well --

25   **A. How -- I don't know.**

1 Q. Sorry. I don't -- I think -- it is clear from your  
2 statement that you only talk about him when you are in  
3 the open borstal.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. What he is saying is that he couldn't have been involved  
6 in anything that happened to you while you were in the  
7 closed borstal because he wasn't there, and you would  
8 accept that, HIA416?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. We know that he was actually at Millisle from  
11 February 1979 to October 1979.

12 **A. It was the open borstal I made the allegation about him  
13 slapping me.**

14 Q. Well, going back to your statement, if we can, at  
15 page 074, paragraph 21, you talk about you had to  
16 continue to make your bed each morning. You were in the  
17 canteen one morning when an officer came in and told you  
18 that you hadn't made your bed and told you that he would  
19 put you on report. The next morning the same thing  
20 happened.

21 Now is this the officer who you are talking about  
22 being in cohorts with ML9?

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. You say that you would walk into your room. It was  
25 always the same two boys, a boy called ML13 and ML9,

1 that were standing there:

2 "They wanted to kill me and they would batter me and  
3 beat me up. They were both bullies. I knew that  
4 whoever was doing this to me was trying to get to me.  
5 I lay in bed at night crying. I then started to make  
6 sure that I was the last person to leave the dormitory  
7 so that my bed wouldn't be destroyed. Even then it was  
8 still wrecked. I felt as though I couldn't confide in  
9 anyone. ML9 slept in the room facing me and at  
10 night-time he would look over and tell me that he would  
11 beat me. There was nothing I could do. I just lay  
12 there waiting on it happening."

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Now I have explained to you that we were able to trace  
15 ML9. We weren't able to trace ML13, but we have not as  
16 yet heard --

17 **A. Can I just say that wrecking my bed in the morning when  
18 I was getting down to eat my breakfast, and the officer  
19 would come up, same officer, each morning that my bed  
20 was wrecked and tell me to get back up and make my bed  
21 and that there, that meant I missed my breakfast and  
22 I had to go straight up to the workshop after I made my  
23 bed. So it meant I missed breakfast any time that  
24 happened.**

25 Q. Okay, HIA416. You go on at paragraph 22 to talk about

1 another matter and you say that you were watching  
2 television in the common room and it came on the news  
3 that soldiers were blown up. Another boy who was from  
4 the same area as you let out a roar and:

5 "... a prison officer came into the room and started  
6 to shout at us and he called us 'Fenian bastards'."

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You say the abuse was worse after this incident because  
9 you were from the area where this explosion had taken  
10 place.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You received word that you were going to be beaten up in  
13 the changing rooms. Now this is what we were talking  
14 about about having to take your shoes and --

15 **A. No. That's -- that was --**

16 Q. It's a different story.

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

18 Q. It's a different time.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You say the man that ran the workshop used to let you  
21 stay there to avoid that. So he knew tat you were under  
22 threat.

23 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

24 Q. You say he also let you sit on a bench because he knew  
25 your back was bad and because you couldn't stand during

1 the lessons. You say he was a lovely man.

2 **A. Yes, he did. He used to let -- he helped me a lot when**  
3 **my back was that bad and I had to go up to work even**  
4 **though my back was that bad, because I didn't want to go**  
5 **back into that room on my own with the pain. That's the**  
6 **reason I went back out with pain, even with the pain,**  
7 **but after a few weeks the pain went away, like. It came**  
8 **and went now and again, like.**

9 Q. That would be what happens with sciatica.

10 **A. Yes. I didn't know at that time what sciatica was --**

11 Q. What was wrong.

12 **A. -- but I knew the worst pain of my life I was in in that**  
13 **room and I asked to let my own doctor in and they**  
14 **wouldn't.**

15 Q. HIA416, you go on to say that you tried to keep to  
16 yourself in Millisle and you tried to hide, because all  
17 you wanted to do was to go home and see your family.

18 **A. I can't really hear you. Sorry.**

19 Q. Sorry. I am just reading from your statement. You say  
20 that you tried to keep to yourself and hide because all  
21 you wanted to do was to go home and see your family.

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

23 Q. You said:

24 "Everyone wanted to receive special privileges as  
25 once you received these you only had twelve weeks until

1           you were allowed to go home."

2           When you got your special privileges, a prison  
3           officer was trying to break you so that you would lose  
4           them.

5       **A. That's the one that was with ML9. It was with ML9**  
6       **telling me to come up and make my bed. He came down and**  
7       **tell me -- that's the one that was -- when somebody**  
8       **shouted -- let a roar out of him after that there bomb**  
9       **went off in Narrow Water, this officer came in and took**  
10       **a certain fella out and into a room, the fella from**  
11       **██████, and that same officer was the one that was with**  
12       **ML9 and that getting my bed wrecked and just getting me**  
13       **into trouble, like, trying to.**

14       **Q.** You say that you eventually left Millisle in 1980.  
15       There was no preparation for you leaving. The morning  
16       you were due to leave you were told to polish the floors  
17       as you weren't out yet.

18       **A. That's right.**

19       **Q.** You remember your dad came and collected you and you  
20       felt that showed that your dad cared about you.

21       **A. Yes. He never -- he never visited me the whole year.**  
22       **Neither did my brothers or my sisters, because at that**  
23       **time there was no traffic and it was --**

24       **Q.** It was diff... --

25       **A. People hadn't got cars or that there. So I wasn't**

1 expecting to get a visit every week, like, or every --  
2 it was that far away. I didn't even know where I was.  
3 I knew my family had no transport to be able to get  
4 there. My sister and her husband got on the bus to take  
5 their children down one time and there was a lot of  
6 loyalist bandsmen on the bus and scared them. So they  
7 turned back and they would never come back down again.  
8 I used to worry even when my sister [REDACTED] did come down  
9 did she get home, but I had no way of knowing. Only if  
10 nobody came and told me nothing bad happened to her,  
11 that was good.

12 Q. Well, you go on to describe in the rest of this page in  
13 three paragraphs what life was like for you after you  
14 left Millisle. Something has gone wrong with the  
15 numbering, as we seem to be back to paragraphs 1 to 3.  
16 I am not going to go into the details, as I have  
17 explained to you, HIA416, that the Panel have read  
18 what's written there, but you continued to get into  
19 trouble until eventually your daughter was born and you  
20 haven't been in trouble since 1997. Is that right?

21 A. [REDACTED] yes, when she was born. I was in -- before that  
22 there I was in and out of jail after borstal, because  
23 jail didn't -- jail was nothing compared to -- you come  
24 home to [REDACTED] to a town that was in uproar and you could  
25 feel the tension in the town and my brothers and sisters



1           were getting -- trying to get me home again, trying --  
2           I don't know -- trying to get into the community again,  
3           and as the Troubles were going on and hijackings and  
4           bombs and that, I just got into doing burglaries to get  
5           myself food, (inaudible), clothes.

6    Q.   Well, HIA416 --

7    A.   But --

8    Q.   Sorry.

9    A.   -- I didn't want that many visits. I didn't want them.  
10           It was too dangerous for them coming down that road.

11   Q.   HIA416, I know from talking to you that you have  
12           received a questionnaire from the Inquiry and you have  
13           filled that in.

14   A.   Yes.

15   Q.   The question that we ask everybody when they come to  
16           speak to us is about what recommendations the Inquiry  
17           should make at the end of its work about those children  
18           who were abused in institutions --

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   -- to the government. I know just from talking to you  
21           that you felt when you were filling in the questionnaire  
22           that there should be no distinction made between people  
23           who maybe had a physical injury compared to those people  
24           like yourself who maybe didn't have a physical injury  
25           but who you feel -- who describe the kind of things you

1           went through. You felt that everyone should be treated  
2           the same --

3   **A. Exactly, yes.**

4   Q. -- both in terms of compensation and in terms of  
5       counselling. Is that right?

6   **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

7   Q. Now is there anything more that you want to say, first  
8       of all, about the Inquiry recommendations or is there  
9       anything else that you want to say to the Inquiry about  
10      your time in Millisle that we haven't covered as we have  
11      gone through your evidence?

12   **A. Yes. Well, that wasn't the end of it. The time -- I'd**  
13      **about two weeks to go and I was told that these ones,**  
14      **that definitely they were going to get me. Right?**  
15      **There was this -- there was an officer on a tractor with**  
16      **a trailer on it. They were looking for me and searching**  
17      **for me and I was hiding, for this was two weeks before**  
18      **I got out. So the first week they didn't get me and**  
19      **I got away from them.**

20           The second week I was hiding up in the gym. When  
21      I came out of the gym and I walked out and the tractor  
22      was coming up and there was about six fellas on the  
23      trailer behind it. These were the boys that were  
24      looking for me. So I was cornered. I had nowhere to  
25      go. So they put me on the back of the trailer and took

1 me down to this underground garage place or whatever,  
2 and for some reason -- whatever it is I don't know --  
3 all I remember going into that garage on that trailer,  
4 but I can't remember what happened in the garage. I'm  
5 blank. I have tried to think. I cannot remember what  
6 happened in that garage. That was another attempt to  
7 get my SP taken off me and my release date postponed  
8 again.

9 Q. Ultimately they weren't successful.

10 A. That was my last thing whenever they got me and put me  
11 in that trailer and took me down there and done whatever  
12 they done.

13 Q. HIA416, thank you for that. I have nothing further that  
14 I want to ask you, but the Panel Members may have some  
15 questions for you.

16 A. Thanks very much.

17 **Questions from THE PANEL**

18 CHAIRMAN: HIA416, can I just ask you to go back to what you  
19 were telling us about being bullied by other trainees,  
20 other borstal boys?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you think the staff knew about what was going on?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did they try and stop it in any way?

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. I don't mean by that that they actually witnessed it.

2 A. **Some staff had their favourite boys, like, you know.**

3 **No. They did know it was going on, like.**

4 Q. Did you ever see staff trying to break up bullying --

5 A. **No.**

6 Q. -- or fighting or anything like that?

7 A. **No, never, no, no. If anybody wanted to fight, they**  
8 **would take you up to the gym and put you in the ring for**  
9 **a minute or three minutes. If somebody had an argument**  
10 **with each other or something, you would be put in the**  
11 **ring for three -- a minute -- one minute rings.**

12 Q. Were you given boxing gloves or anything like that?

13 A. **Yes, yes.**

14 Q. So their way of dealing with it was to take you up, the  
15 two of you, put you into the ring and let you sort it  
16 out?

17 A. **Yes.**

18 Q. I see. You have mentioned to us that when you -- just  
19 before you were leaving you were hiding.

20 A. **Uh-huh.**

21 Q. Had you actually absconded from the borstal itself out  
22 into the grounds?

23 A. **No. I was hiding from these ones that were after me.**

24 Q. I see.

25 A. **I was hiding within the grounds. I wasn't hiding --**

1 Q. You hadn't left the premises?

2 A. I hadn't left the borstal, or hiding in that, you know,  
3 just --

4 Q. But presumably the staff couldn't find you. That's  
5 why they were looking for you.

6 A. No, because you could go up to the workshops in the open  
7 office. You could walk about. You could walk up, but  
8 you had to march, like. You know, everywhere you went  
9 you had to march. You didn't have any -- an officer  
10 with you all the time, because there was trust there  
11 that you wouldn't leave.

12 Q. What was this building that you've described, this  
13 underground garage I think you called it, that you were  
14 taken into?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Where was it?

17 A. I can picture it. I was taken -- it was down round the  
18 side of the open borstal house. I can remember they got  
19 me into the back of the trailer and it was an officer  
20 that was driving the tractor. After two or three days  
21 or something that they were looking for me they were,  
22 "A-ha! We got you. We got you. We got you", and all  
23 this here. I can't remember what happened in the thing  
24 -- in the -- under the garage.

25 Q. Well, you've called it a garage. Was it big enough for

1 a vehicle to go into or --

2 **A. It would be like for groundsmen, you know, where**  
3 **groundsmen keep the tractor and ...**

4 Q. Yes, but it was actually wholly or partly underground,  
5 was it?

6 **A. Yes. It was sort of like that, yes, yes. That's the**  
7 **way I can remember it.**

8 Q. Sometimes in old buildings you find a storeroom or  
9 something that's partly underground where you go down  
10 steps into it, but that is not the sort of thing you are  
11 describing?

12 **A. No. This was something you could drive a tractor into**  
13 **and a trailer. It was like -- I think it was somewhere**  
14 **where the groundsmen keep your tools and kept all that,**  
15 **like.**

16 Q. But the thing that sticks in your mind apart from being  
17 a garage was it was underground in some way?

18 **A. I don't mean underground. Like I know it had -- you**  
19 **went in down under -- ah, it was something -- it was**  
20 **under -- under like -- you had to drive down into it,**  
21 **like, you know. I just can't ...**

22 Q. But you are not able to bring back to mind whatever  
23 might have happened to you there?

24 **A. I can't. I cannot remember what happened me in that --**  
25 **that there. Not can I get any ... I can't even**

1           **remember. I was saying I said to myself, "You should**  
2           **remember having to go back up and change your clothes**  
3           **and getting changed so the officers wouldn't notice**  
4           **anything happened or anything like that there". I don't**  
5           **know. I don't know what happened in the garage.**

6           **I can't -- I just can't --**

7    Q.    I see. Thank you very much.

8    A.    -- **remember.**

9    MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA416. That's been helpful.

10           Can I just ask: you know when you were in the parade and  
11           you said to the governor you had a sore back --

12   A.    **Yes.**

13   Q.    -- do you remember what he said to you in response? Did  
14           he --

15   A.    **He told the officer to put me on light duties instead of**  
16           **going up to the workshop, like cleaning -- polishing the**  
17           **stairs or something, walking up the stairs, polishing**  
18           **the stairs or ...**

19   Q.    So he listened to you and he believed what you were  
20           saying?

21   A.    **He didn't believe -- he didn't believe that I'd a bad**  
22           **back. He thought I was --**

23   Q.    But he put you on lighter duties?

24   A.    **Yes.**

25   Q.    So he kind of responded in a way to it at least?

1 A. Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. That was just -- just lighter duties, that I wasn't to  
4 be using the big box -- the big bumper, the box with all  
5 the rocks in it.

6 Q. Okay, and can I ask just what was the process for  
7 getting special privileges? Was there a -- like, did  
8 you go to a board or was there anything formal about it?

9 A. You were just brought into a board with three officers  
10 in it and they told you, "You know, you can go for your  
11 SP, your special privilege, three times".

12 Q. Uh-huh.

13 A. Some people get it first or second, but anybody that if  
14 you really reported anybody or had a grievance against  
15 an officer, you could get it -- it could take you up to  
16 the third time to get it.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So that's why I just tried to keep -- not report  
19 an officer, an officer put bad report in for your SP.  
20 You know, when I -- lucky enough, I went up and I got my  
21 SP the first time.

22 Q. That was good.

23 A. So I had twelve weeks to do.

24 Q. So it was worth keeping your head down --

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. -- and getting ...?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When you talk about at night the fellas, you know,  
4 squealing and crying --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- we are told there was a kind of night guard that used  
7 to come round and check on the dorm.

8 A. Oh, you see, this corridor is that far from where the  
9 officers would be, it's that far away, they wouldn't  
10 even be able to hear anything, like.

11 Q. But do you remember a guard coming round and checking in  
12 the bedrooms?

13 A. Yes. Late at night they would come round and put --  
14 shine their light -- shine their light through the door  
15 just, you know, and see everybody was in bed and that  
16 there, like.

17 Q. Do you remember them ever intervening if they saw --

18 A. No.

19 Q. No?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Because, what, the fellas would --

22 A. I never ever heard of them intervening. I have heard  
23 boys moaning and groaning, and I knew what was happening  
24 to them, but I just said, "It is not happening to me"  
25 and ...

1 Q. Do you mean that in relation to sexual abuse --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- as well as physical abuse? So is it was sexual abuse  
4 that you were hearing, but you were ...?

5 **A. Yes. I think so, yes.**

6 Q. Okay, and the last thing I just want to ask is we have  
7 heard about a Visiting Committee, people who used to  
8 come in and visit and talk to the boys about how they  
9 were getting on.

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. You don't remember that?

12 **A. Never, no.**

13 Q. Never. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA416.

14 **A. Thank you.**

15 MR LANE: I would like to go back to the time -- the  
16 incident to do with the bread right at the beginning  
17 when you were being admitted. If you hadn't asked for  
18 more bread, do you think you would have been beaten up  
19 nonetheless? Was it something that happened to every  
20 new kid?

21 **A. I'm not sure. Like, all I know, I was travelling all**  
22 **day from [REDACTED] and I was starving. We just got in in**  
23 **time for tea and I was sort of rushed through. When**  
24 **I went into this room, there was total silence. All --**  
25 **everybody in that room would have heard him and what he**

1 did to me. He turned round and said, "Does anybody want  
2 any more bread?" I put my hand up like that  
3 (gesturing). He says, "You get the fuck out of here  
4 into that corridor", and I got out into the corridor and  
5 he slapped me and fucking beat me. I says, "I didn't  
6 ask for it". He says, "Don't you dare ever fucking ask  
7 -- talk back to me again", slapped and beat me again,  
8 then brought back to my cell and I was just thrown into  
9 my cell and I just -- that night I don't know whether  
10 I was in the belly of a beast or what type of people  
11 does this. You are coming from -- I was still at school  
12 when I was taken into borstal. When I was still at  
13 school, that was the morning when you would go in late  
14 in the morning and they had the big leather belt and you  
15 would get the strap. I went from that straight into  
16 borstal. So corporal punishment. I don't know. Just  
17 went from one extreme to the other, like.

18 Q. Yes. Right. You mentioned that the Belfast and the  
19 country boys were split up.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Were you in different houses?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What was the idea behind that? Was there always  
24 a tension between the two groups?

25 A. No. I don't know. I just thought that we were sort of

1       like -- as I say, chickens and pigs in our back gardens,  
2       and we were slow, and the city boys were maybe years  
3       ahead of us or something, you know, in their -- in their  
4       thinking or ...

5       Q.   Were the other group treated any differently from you?

6       A.   **Pardon?**

7       Q.   Were they treated any differently from you?

8       A.   **No, no, no, no, no, no.**

9       Q.   Right. Was any of the tension sectarian as well between  
10      you?

11      A.   **Yes, yes. After Narrow Water it was, yes.**

12      Q.   So the half dozen who were out to get you, why were they  
13      different from you? Why were they wanting to beat you  
14      up at the end?

15      A.   **Because maybe the way I turned round and I told  
16      somebody, "I never got my star burst. Nobody is  
17      bursting my star", and maybe someone, like -- I was told  
18      when I come up that somebody from East Belfast was going  
19      to get me. I didn't say anything. I didn't know the  
20      fella. I never done nothing wrong. I never said  
21      nothing to him. Somebody said -- told him that I said  
22      something about him.**

23      Q.   Right.

24      A.   **You know, that was it.**

25      Q.   Do you think you were picked on more than most or was

1 everybody suffering that sort of thing?

2 A. Well, I don't think anybody went in -- I don't know  
3 whether they did or not, and whether that was a trick he  
4 done all the time if you asked -- if you asked for  
5 bread. I don't know whether he did that or he did that  
6 to every -- every new one that came in --

7 Q. Right.

8 A. -- or whatever. I can't say, like, but maybe it was  
9 just that I just arrived at teatime. With him, as  
10 I say, that there happened. That was my first and then  
11 I had to lie all night waiting. "What is behind that  
12 door when they open it in the morning? I don't know  
13 where I am. My family will never be able to get to  
14 where I am, the drive was that long", and for that there  
15 I said, "What -- if they do that to you, what are they  
16 going to do in the morning?"

17 As soon as they opened that door in the morning,  
18 I was outside the door standing like the rest -- rest of  
19 the boys standing. They go down and go through your  
20 cell, and I had to go and get my hair cut and he says,  
21 "You have no mother and father. We are your mother and  
22 father. We own you for three years. You do what we  
23 say. We own you. We own you", and smack. Like, and  
24 I was down in the assessment wing for six weeks and they  
25 never asked me to shave once. As soon as I went up to

1 ML8's wing he turns round and says, "Shave" and I had  
2 nothing to shave and I just said and like - and he  
3 slapped the head off me and he said, "Shave". So  
4 obviously I cut the face off myself when I was doing it,  
5 but it was a good laugh to them, you know.

6 Q. Thank you very much.

7 A. Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA416, those are the last questions we  
9 want to ask you. Thank you very much for coming to  
10 speak to us today.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Thank you. If you would like to go now, you are free to  
13 do so.

14 A. What's that? Is that it?

15 Q. You can go now if you like.

16 A. Is that okay? Thank you.

17 Q. Yes. Thank you.

18 A. Thank you. Okay.

19 (Witness withdrew)

20 Evidence of HIA320 dealt with by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

21 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is one other piece of evidence  
22 that I am dealing with today. That is to summarise the  
23 evidence of HIA320. I see Mr Holmes, who represents one  
24 of the people that HIA320 speaks about is just outside.  
25 So perhaps if he could just be brought in.

1 Do you wish to announce your appearance?

2 MR HOLMES: Yes, yes. Mr Chairman, Members of the Panel,  
3 I appear for LN20 with Mr Mearns, instructed by John  
4 Ross & Son Solicitors.

5 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Holmes.

6 MS SMITH: As I said, HIA320, whose first name is HIA320,  
7 his evidence in relation to St. Patrick's Training  
8 School has previously been summarised on 4th September  
9 of 2015. That's Day 137. He has been unable to attend  
10 in person at the Inquiry and he has provided medical  
11 evidence, which has been accepted by the Inquiry.

12 His witness statement can be found at MIL058 to 063.

13 The Department of Justice response is at MIL098 to  
14 103.

15 There is no reason to suppose that he doesn't wish  
16 to maintain the anonymity that the Inquiry has afforded  
17 to him.

18 His criminal record can be seen at MIL30035 to  
19 30046.

20 If we could look, please, at his statement, he deals  
21 with Millisle at paragraphs 12 and 13, which is at  
22 page 061. He was in Millisle from 19th February 1979 in  
23 the closed unit -- we see reference to this at 40215 --  
24 and he then moved to the open section on 15th  
25 February 1980, a year later, and was there until

1 14th February 1981. The register entry for that is at  
2 60632 to 60633.

3 As he says in his statement, he left St. Pat's when  
4 he was 16, and as far as he can remember he was sent to  
5 the borstal in Millisle. He believes he was there for  
6 approximately a year, but can't be certain. On arrival  
7 he got assaulted by a prison officer whom he names here,  
8 LN18, in the assessment centre and he started screaming.  
9 Other staff had to come in as well as the governor to  
10 see what was happening. He says:

11 "The governor knew he hit me and he was called" --  
12 he gives the name of the governor -- "**ML 71, LN 19**", and  
13 he was very nice to me."

14 He said:

15 "After that first incident there were a couple of  
16 angry prison officers that didn't like me and didn't  
17 make it easy for me, but I had the governors on my side.  
18 One of these officers was called ...",

19 and he gives the name and we have ascertained that  
20 it was actually LN20.

21 "They slapped me in the face or put you in the  
22 punishment block and made things very difficult for me."

23 He also describes a prison officer, a LN21, who was  
24 in charge of him, and who was a kind man.

25 "He knew that I was getting assaulted and I think he



1 told those doing it to stop."

2 Now the Inquiry has received response statements  
3 from two of the people named by HIA320 in his witness  
4 statement. The first of these is LN18. That can be  
5 seen at MIL780.

6 He says that he was transferred to Millisle Borstal  
7 on [REDACTED] and after a while on general duties  
8 and a period of time as assistant class officer on the  
9 assessment wing he was then selected as class officer.

10 "My responsibilities were to instruct those trainees  
11 in the routine, rules and regulations of the closed  
12 borstal on their committal. I also sat on the labour  
13 allocation board to report on the trainees' progress  
14 and those ready to move to other landings and work.  
15 Whilst in the assessment wing most of their time was  
16 taken up with cleaning duties and physical education.

17 I strongly deny this allegation made against me by  
18 HIA320.

19 Staff could not place any borstal trainee in the  
20 punishment block as alleged without instructions from  
21 the governor or after adjudication, and if the records  
22 could be checked, it would show that the punishment  
23 block was seldom used. If the late governor thought  
24 I had done something wrong, I would have been charged  
25 and removed from the wing.

1 Many of the borstal trainees were anti-authority and  
2 did not like taking orders or instructions, but the  
3 majority went on to become better individuals and make  
4 something of their life without reoffending."

5 He goes on to say he was promoted in [REDACTED]  
6 -- [REDACTED] to senior officer and then promoted to  
7 principal officer in [REDACTED]. Having served [REDACTED] and  
8 a half years, he retired in [REDACTED] and was awarded  
9 the [REDACTED] ",

10 and he signed his statement on 1st January of this  
11 year.

12 LN20's statement can be found at MIL829 and it  
13 reads:

14 "I worked in the capacity of prison officer at Her  
15 Majesty's Prison (Closed) Borstal Millisle between [REDACTED]  
16 and [REDACTED], when I left and went to Hydebank.

17 I have read the relevant portion of the statement  
18 made to the Inquiry by HIA320. I have no recollection  
19 whatsoever of any young man of that name during my time  
20 at Millisle.

21 I never at any stage slapped or physically abused  
22 any young person under my control and categorically deny  
23 the allegation made. I certainly was never approached  
24 by or spoken to by a colleague who had concerns over my  
25 treatment of a young person.

1           This was a time before proper training in or any  
2           formally regulated policies for the use of restraint and  
3           physical force in dealing with violent inmates.  
4           However, I never used or indeed witnessed anything but  
5           reasonable force being used, and only in those  
6           circumstances which absolutely demanded it.

7           The main form of restraint used at that time, as  
8           I remember it, consisted of physically pushing a boy  
9           into his room and locking the door behind him.

10          The other part of the allegation made against me is  
11          simply impossible. Prison officers had no power to send  
12          a young person to the punishment block. If a complaint  
13          was made as to the behaviour of a young person, he would  
14          go before the governor and it would be for him to decide  
15          on what, if any, punishment was appropriate. This order  
16          from the governor could on occasions have included  
17          periods in the punishment block."

18          He signed that witness statement on 19th January.

19          If we look at the DoJ response statement at 098,  
20          please, and if we look at paragraph 4 of that statement,  
21          you will see that records show that LN18 joined the  
22          Prison Service on [REDACTED]. He was transferred from  
23          Her Majesty's Prison Maze on [REDACTED] and  
24          commenced working in the borstal on [REDACTED]. He  
25          left on [REDACTED]. He left the Prison Service

1 in [REDACTED].

2 LN20, statement -- mentioned in the statement to the  
3 Inquiry, commenced working in Millisle on [REDACTED]  
4 and transferred to Hydebank on [REDACTED].

5 That is the summary of what HIA320 says about his  
6 time in Millisle and the relevant evidence with regard  
7 to that that the Inquiry has received.

8 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will rise now and resume whenever we are  
9 ready to deal with the final witness.

10 MS SMITH: Yes.

11 (11.15 am)

12 (Short break)

13 (11.30 am)

14 WITNESS HIA248 (called)

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken?

16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

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

18 The next witness today is HIA248, who is "HIA248". He  
19 gave evidence to you previously on Day 152 of our public  
20 hearings, which was 20th October 2015, in relation to  
21 his time in Rathgael during Module 7. You can find that  
22 at pages 48 to 108 of the transcript from that day.

23 HIA290 took the oath on the last occasion and is aware  
24 that he remains under oath this morning, and he wished  
25 to preserve his anonymity, and that continues to be his

1 position. He confirmed for me on the last day that his  
2 date of birth is [REDACTED] and he is now  
3 54 years of age.

4 HIA248, on the last occasion you proved your  
5 statement, but I am just going to bring it up with  
6 different Bates numbering on it now and just get you to  
7 check that this is definitely the right one. That looks  
8 like the first page of your statement?

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

10 Q. If we go through to the last page, which is at 057, you  
11 will see that that looks like the last page of your  
12 statement, and you confirmed on the last occasion that  
13 you had signed it and you wanted to adopt it as your  
14 evidence.

15 The part that relates to Millisle -- if we can put  
16 it on the screen, please, at 055 -- it is paragraphs 10  
17 to 14 of your statement and we will just leave that on  
18 the screen for the moment. That's one document that  
19 that's available to the Inquiry, HIA248.

20 In addition, we were discussing earlier the Panel  
21 has access to your criminal record, which is at 30032 to  
22 30034. As you know, unfortunately your file from  
23 Millisle doesn't still exist, but the record helps with  
24 the date of you going in and the date of you coming out.  
25 You thought it was probably longer than it was, but it

1 appears that you were in Millisle from [REDACTED]  
2 February 1979, when you were aged 17, until  
3 [REDACTED] March 1980, when you were 18, which was about  
4 thirteen months.

5 You explain in your statement -- and we will come  
6 back to it -- that you were in the closed borstal at  
7 Millisle for a period before graduating through the  
8 progressive grade system into the open borstal.

9 The context of you coming to Millisle we touched on  
10 at the end of your evidence on the last occasion. You  
11 had been charged with your brother of the arson of  
12 [REDACTED] in Bangor that was disused, and you were then on  
13 remand back in Rathgael, having been released previously  
14 in '78 under supervision, and then when you were being  
15 sentenced by the court on 5th February 1979, the borstal  
16 training sentence was imposed, and the sentencing  
17 remarks from Judge Watt are available to the Panel.  
18 They are at 60242. We don't need to look them up, but  
19 they point out that the judge's thinking was he could  
20 have imposed a long period of imprisonment on you and  
21 your brother, but instead wanted to give you one final  
22 opportunity to go to borstal training and turn your life  
23 around. That's how he described it at the time  
24 according to the record.

25 I was also able to say to you both from the criminal

1 record, HIA248, and from a discharge book -- and I am  
2 just going to show the Panel what that looks like so  
3 that it is contextualised. If we look, please, at  
4 40014, this is the form of the book. It has a sticker  
5 on it that explains what it was, which is the "Trainee  
6 Discharge Book" for 1979. What it recorded was the  
7 occasions whenever boys were taken somewhere by staff.

8 So in your case I was able -- I will just show these  
9 examples. 40015, please, records an occasion -- you can  
10 see other names are there -- you were taken to Ards  
11 Hospital. I was asking you could you remember what that  
12 was about and you couldn't remember now what it was  
13 about. That was 30th April of 1979, so about two months  
14 into your stay.

15 Then there were other offences that were being dealt  
16 with by the court that predated the borstal training  
17 sentence, which resulted in you being taken out to court  
18 on 21st June and 2nd July of 1979 and then finally 3rd  
19 September '79, when a series of burglaries and thefts  
20 were dealt with by the court and the borstal training  
21 order was effectively imposed so that you would continue  
22 your borstal training sentence.

23 You turned 18 in [REDACTED] 79, [REDACTED] months into  
24 your time in Millisle, and then according to your  
25 criminal record the release date that is marked on the

1 record is of [REDACTED] March 1980, which is about thirteen  
2 months after your time there.

3 If we look at paragraph 11 of your statement,  
4 please, at 055, you explain, HIA248, to the Panel that  
5 you were you in the closed borstal for a period of time.  
6 I was discussing with you earlier the closed borstal was  
7 entirely separate in your mind, in your experience from  
8 the open borstal. There was not a mixing of individuals  
9 from the two places.

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. It was more like a prison with -- you had an individual  
12 cell that you resided in.

13 **A. That's correct.**

14 Q. And you had -- you described making bed packs, and one  
15 of the -- the regime that you remember is the officer  
16 being unhappy with you if your bed wasn't made properly  
17 or you hadn't kept your cell clean, and that's when you  
18 would have had difficulty with the -- you identify two  
19 particular prison officers that you remember being  
20 brothers --

21 **A. Correct.**

22 Q. -- and that they would have been violent with their  
23 kicking and slapping at you. I am right in saying you  
24 don't remember who they were?

25 **A. Not really. As you said, like, it was only "Yes, sir"**



1           **and "No, sir" sort of thing at that time, you know. So**  
2           **we didn't really get to know the prison officers' names.**

3    Q.   Yes, and the Department of Justice have said to the  
4           Inquiry in their replying statement where they have  
5           confirmed that they don't have any material -- that's at  
6           096 to 097 -- that they can't work out -- they don't  
7           have enough personnel files to work out who -- if there  
8           were brothers on the staff, who you might be talking  
9           about and they can't assist certainly at this point the  
10          Inquiry any further in that regard, but I am right in  
11          saying, HIA248, that it wasn't that they gratuitously  
12          just walked around being violent. It was the occasions  
13          whenever they were unhappy about some rule that you had  
14          not kept.

15    **A.   Correct.**

16    Q.   Is that the -- is that a fair way to describe it?

17    **A.   I suppose so. Like, I mean, if you didn't do something**  
18          **right, obviously, you know, you are going to get taught**  
19          **how to do it, like, or get a slap if you don't do it**  
20          **right the first time, you know. It depends on the**  
21          **humour of the staff that day, you know, who was on.**

22    Q.   I can't, because I don't have the records, help you with  
23          at what point you moved over to the open borstal, but in  
24          paragraph 12, if we scroll down to paragraph 12, please,  
25          you talk about that move across into the open borstal,

1           when then you lived in the mansion house, as it were,  
2           and in a dormitory --

3   **A. Correct.**

4   Q. -- that you shared with other boys.

5   **A. Other boys, yes.**

6   Q. You explain in the last sentence what -- I was asking  
7       you, "Is that the special grade where you got then the  
8       red armband?"

9   **A. Uh-huh.**

10   Q. That -- your recollection is that the red armband  
11       symbolised you had much greater freedom to move around  
12       the premises, because there was gardens and a forest and  
13       so on, and it is at that point you were given the job in  
14       the officers' mess, as you recall it.

15   **A. Correct, yes.**

16   Q. That was an accommodation separate from the mansion  
17       house?

18   **A. Correct.**

19   Q. Up behind the mansion house?

20   **A. It was more upfront than behind, if you know what I'm  
21       saying.**

22   Q. So nearer the road?

23   **A. It was kind of like on a slope. The house was here, the  
24       big house was here, and the officers' mess was kind of  
25       like up a hill and then you had the main road then on**

1           **the left, you know.**

2    Q.    And that -- you were given the role of looking after the  
3           officers' mess.

4    **A. Officers' mess. Correct.**

5    Q.    Did you have that role on your own or were there others  
6           who helped you with that?

7    **A. I had that on my own.**

8    Q.    You were saying to me that that gave you -- you had  
9           basically the run of the place and you could have a cup  
10          of tea if you wanted to have a cup of tea --

11   **A. Uh-huh.**

12   Q.    -- and you could spend your day there, which kept you  
13          out of any difficulty --

14   **A. That's true.**

15   Q.    -- with anybody else.

16   **A. Correct. You see, like, there was a chap there that**  
17          **actually was leaving. So they train somebody else, you**  
18          **know, before -- before they go. You know what I mean?**  
19          **So that's the way it went. So actually I got trained in**  
20          **there.**

21   Q.    And you were saying to me that you had no real complaint  
22          about the food or the accommodation or anything of that  
23          nature.

24   **A. No, not really, no.**

25   Q.    And you can recall the sporting activities and education

1 and so on, but not necessarily what -- to what extent  
2 you were involved in them.

3 **A. Well, as I said, like, I didn't really have much time**  
4 **really to go to kind of things like that, because you**  
5 **are working in the officers' mess at an early hour of**  
6 **the morning, like. You know what I mean? So there**  
7 **wasn't really much kind of education or anything there**  
8 **for me, you know.**

9 Q. Do you remember the -- there seems -- according to the  
10 records that are available or reports on the borstal  
11 that are available there were evening classes that  
12 everybody had to attend two days a week. Do you  
13 remember the evening classes?

14 **A. Not offhand, you know, because, as I said, like, there**  
15 **was one -- just one big room, you know, for us all,**  
16 **like, and most people just kind of like -- it was up to**  
17 **yourself if you want to go to them, but you weren't**  
18 **forced to go to them. As far as I know you weren't**  
19 **anyway.**

20 Q. It is in paragraph 13 then you explain to the Inquiry  
21 about being in the dormitory and about what a night  
22 watchman did.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. You were saying that you had a bedroom (sic) in the  
25 corner of the dormitory and you had a bad cough.

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

2 Q. This man would have brought you a cough sweet. You  
3 mentioned to me that he had brought you cigarettes, but  
4 that at one stage then he put his hands under the  
5 bedding and started feeling your private area.

6 **A. Correct.**

7 Q. You said that he did that a number of different times.

8 **A. A couple of occasions, yes.**

9 Q. And told you that it was your -- "our secret". You  
10 weren't to tell anybody about it. That left you feeling  
11 uncomfortable and afraid. I was asking you: can you  
12 remember who that was? Do you remember the person's  
13 name or ...?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. Or anything about them? You don't remember what he  
16 looked like even or ...? If you don't, just say.

17 **A. It's just so hard, you know. It's going back that long.**  
18 **You know what I mean? I just -- I thought I did have it**  
19 **blanked out of my mind, but unfortunately, like, you**  
20 **know, it's still there.**

21 Q. You didn't ever speak to anybody about -- about this at  
22 the time?

23 **A. No, I couldn't.**

24 Q. Why did you feel that you couldn't?

25 **A. Because the fella was on it that night threatened --**

1           **because it was kind of a threat to me, like. He said if**  
2           **I was to tell anybody, it would make matters worse.**

3    Q.    Are you aware of him doing that to any other boys in the  
4           dormitory or you just know what involved you?

5    A.    **Just involves me really in that -- in that dormitory.**  
6           **I don't know about any other dormitories, you know.**

7    Q.    And at what -- would he have been coming in, you know,  
8           in the middle of the night to check on you or was it at  
9           the start of bedtime or -- can you remember?

10   A.    **About the middle of the night probably, yes. Like,**  
11           **he'd -- he'd come in, first of all, to make sure that**  
12           **everybody was settled down first and then the door would**  
13           **be closed over. Then -- but then night-time he would**  
14           **probably come in again, do another check, and it is**  
15           **around that kind of -- the early hours of the morning.**

16   Q.    Then in paragraph 14 of your statement, HIA248, you talk  
17           about bullying that went on and that was between the  
18           boys. Sort of tit-for-tat you described it to me as  
19           earlier.

20   A.    **Uh-huh.**

21   Q.    You were saying to me that the staff did, you know, tell  
22           the -- you know, a boy if they saw him --

23   A.    **Oh, yes.**

24   Q.    -- at that sort of thing -- gave him a warning.

25   A.    **The boys got their warning, yes.**

1 Q. And that effectively the concern was always about being  
2 sent back to the closed borstal.

3 **A. Closed borstal. That's correct.**

4 Q. I was explaining to you earlier, HIA248, that normally  
5 at the end of the evidence I ask two questions of  
6 a witness, the first being about recommendations, and we  
7 covered that on the last occasion.

8 So the last question I ask each witness is whether  
9 there's anything else they want to add about what we are  
10 looking at, which is Millisle, whether maybe I haven't  
11 covered something correctly, or haven't covered it in  
12 the detail that you would want or ... Is there anything  
13 else about your time in Millisle that you want to draw  
14 to the Panel's attention?

15 **A. Not that I can recall really. The most important thing**  
16 **I did want to say was about what happened, you know,**  
17 **with the night watchman. You know, that was -- I kind**  
18 **of wanted to get that off my chest really, you know.**

19 Q. Well, HIA248, I am not going to ask you any more  
20 questions. If you remain where you are for a short  
21 time, as you know from having been here before, the  
22 Panel may want to ask you something. So just bear with  
23 us for a short time.

24 Questions from THE PANEL

25 CHAIRMAN: HIA248, can I ask you something more about what

1           you did when you were working in the mess? Was that the  
2           mess for the prison officers?

3   **A. That was the mess for the prison officers.**

4   Q. And what sort of work did you do there? Did you tidy  
5           up, clean up --

6   **A. I cleaned up the --**

7   Q. -- serve drinks or what did you do?

8   **A. No, no. I just -- like after they were finished their**  
9           **lunches and their tea, etc, I cleaned up then after**  
10           **that, so it would be then ready for their next meal,**  
11           **etc. So ...**

12   Q. I see, and I take it from what you said that this was  
13           not heavy work. It was seen as somewhere where you were  
14           a bit out of the way and you could relax, so to speak.

15   **A. Yes.**

16   Q. You made a remark I didn't quite follow about not having  
17           the opportunity for education for you, because you had  
18           to work in the early hours. Does that mean you came in  
19           late at night/in the early hours of the morning to tidy  
20           up if they had finished after using it for recreation?

21   **A. No. Like there'd be a parade in the morning time, say,**  
22           **from 8 o'clock onwards and then from there, like,**  
23           **you're -- the boys would be -- say go to woodwork, go to**  
24           **their classes. Then I'd go up to the officers' mess and**  
25           **that would be like your job for the day.**



1 Q. I see. Does that mean you had to go in after breakfast  
2 to tidy up when they had had their breakfast or that  
3 sort of thing?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Because it was your job for the day, you just didn't get  
6 the chance to have any of the education --

7 **A. Exactly.**

8 Q. -- opportunities?

9 **A. That's what I'm saying. Like, I was up in the mess,  
10 like, you know, from lunchtime, you know, and then their  
11 -- their breakfast, tea and lunch and, you know,  
12 whatever else was there, their coffee breaks, etc, you  
13 know.**

14 Q. If I can just ask you something more now about what the  
15 night watchman did to you. As far as you were aware  
16 were you the only boy in your dormitory that he did that  
17 to?

18 **A. You see, I don't really know, because, like, as far as  
19 I -- like, as I say, I was in a corner bed, and maybe,  
20 like, with it being kind of a closed over area, you  
21 know, in the corner, like, you know, you would see more  
22 probably in the open floor than you would maybe  
23 a corner.**

24 Q. Do you mean because of the layout it might be easier for  
25 him to get to you and not be seen?

1 **A. Absolutely.**

2 Q. Was there any talk amongst other boys either in your  
3 dormitory or generally about either him or other members  
4 of staff doing the same sort of thing to other boys?

5 **A. Not that I know of.**

6 Q. Were you aware of any sexual approaches by some of the  
7 other boys on to boys either in your dorm or elsewhere?  
8 Was that talked about or did you see anything like that?

9 **A. Not really. You see, boys wouldn't really talk about  
10 their emotional feelings there, you know.**

11 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

12 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much. Can I just ask: how were you  
13 chosen to be in the officers' mess? How -- was that  
14 because you were working in the kitchen and you -- did  
15 somebody talk to you about doing it or were you just  
16 told ...?

17 **A. I think they were actually just looking for somebody to  
18 train before -- the other fella was actually ready for  
19 release, and so I just got chosen to work in the  
20 officers' mess.**

21 Q. That was when you were working in the kitchen?

22 **A. That's when I was working in the kitchen, yes.**

23 Q. So you were obviously seen as somebody that was quite  
24 trustworthy to be around both the kitchen and the  
25 officers' mess.

1 **A. I was. Correct, yes.**

2 Q. Okay. Just the other thing I wanted to ask about was  
3 about a Visiting Committee. We have been told that  
4 there were visitors that would come regularly and talk  
5 to the boys about how they were getting on. Do you  
6 remember that?

7 **A. Not offhand, no.**

8 Q. No.

9 **A. Not offhand, no.**

10 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

11 **A. You're welcome.**

12 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA248, thank you very much. Those are the  
13 only questions we have for you. Thank you for coming to  
14 speak to us today.

15 **A. Thank you for listening.**

16 **(Witness withdrew)**

17 CHAIRMAN: I think HIA248 is the last witness today, isn't  
18 he?

19 MR AIKEN: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will adjourn now until next  
21 Monday. Yes.

22 (11.50 am)

23 (Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
24 on Monday, 25th January 2016

25 --ooOoo--