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Page 2
 1
                                          Tuesday, 8th March 2016
     (10.00 am)
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 3
                       WITNESS HIA211 (called)
 4
     CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
         start this morning can I remind everyone to please turn
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         off your mobile phone or at the very least put it on
 6
         "Silent"/"Vibrate", and I must also remind everyone that
         no photography is permitted either here in the chamber
8
9
         or indeed anywhere on the Inquiry premises.
             Good morning, Ms Smith.
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     MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members. Our first
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         witness today is HIA211. She is "HIA211". HIA211
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        wishes to affirm and she also wishes to maintain her
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         anonymity.
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             So, HIA211, if you would just stand, the Chairman
         will ask you to affirm.
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17
                      WITNESS HIA211 (affirmed)
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     CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA211. Please sit down.
                Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
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               Now, HIA211, as I explained to you, I am just
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21
         going to tell the Panel Members where I have some papers
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         in my bundle of documents. So if you just sit there for
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         a moment and then we'll come on to your evidence. Okay?
             HIA211's statement can be found at GSC045 to 051.
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             The Health & Social Care Board response is at GSC242
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Page 3 1 to 247. 2. We have received five statements from the Good Shepherd Sisters in response to HIA211's statement. 3 4 The first is from SR283 who was SR283 That's at GSC285 to 286. 5 SR49's statement is at GSC308 to 321. 6 7 SR293 statement -- she was formerly SR293 -- is at GSC322 to 328. 8 9 SR294 , who was SR294 of the 10 SR294 , is at GSC329 to 334. There's a statement from Sister Eithne at GSC560 to 11 562. 12 13 HIA211, you can see that your statement is on the screen in front of you and, as I explained to you, 14 15 instead of giving your full name there it is telling you 16 it is the witness statement of HIA211, which is the 17 reference number that we have given to protect your 18 identity. Okay? Α. Yes. 19 You will see that there are other details blocked out on 20 Ο. 21 that to protect the identity of -- to protect your 22 identity throughout, but can I ask you, HIA211, to confirm this is the witness statement that you prepared 23 24 for the Inquiry? 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You are now aged 70 years of age. Isn't that right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You came to the Good Shepherd in Derry from the
- in Donegal, where you had been living
- 5 from childhood.
- 6 A. (Nods.)
- 7 Q. You thought when you spoke to the people in the Inquiry,
- 8 to our lawyers, you thought that you had been in the
- 9 Good Shepherd in Derry from 1958 until 1975, which would
- 10 have put you there between the ages of 13 up until the
- 11 age of 30.
- Now the records, as I was explaining to you, HIA211,
- that we have got show that, in fact, you arrived in the
- Good Shepherd in Derry on 10th April 1963, when you were
- 15 over 17 and a half.
- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. You then turned 18 in September 1963. So, as I was
- 18 explaining to you, the Inquiry is only able to look at
- what happened to you in the home between 19... --
- between April 1963 and September 1963, when you became
- 21 18.
- 22 A. Right.
- 23 Q. Okay, but when we were talking earlier, you in your mind
- don't remember what happened when. Isn't that right,
- 25 HIA211?

- 1 A. Yes. That's right.
- 2 Q. So what we are going do is we are just going to go over
- 3 what you say in your statement. I will tell you some of
- 4 the things that the Sisters have said about what you
- 5 have said about your time in the Good Shepherd in Derry.
- 6 All right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Now paragraph 1 of your statement your personal details
- 9 are set out there.
- 10 Paragraph 2 you talk about your first day when you
- 11 arrived in Derry. You were met by -- I am going to use
- the nuns' names. You will see, HIA211, that we have
- given them numbers as well here, but I am going to use
- the names, because it will be easier for you to know who
- 15 I am talking about.
- 16 A. Okay.
- 17 Q. I just want to remind everybody else that those names
- can't be used outside of this room. We will use the
- names in here, but your name and other people's names
- 20 can't be used outside. All right?
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. So on your first day you think the nun in charge, SR312
- 23 met you and another girl who had come with you. Her
- 24 name is GSC1. She met you at the front door. You know
- 25 SR312 is dead. Just for the benefit of the Inquiry she

- 1 died in 2005.
- 2 "We were thrown in the bath and a uniform was put on
- 3 us. It was a yellow dress. We all wore the same
- 4 uniform every day. They cut my hair and changed my
- 5 name. They called me 'HIA211' instead of HIA211 and
- I was known as 'HIA211' all my time in the Good
- 7 Shepherd. We did not get anything to eat. They sent us
- 8 straight to work in the laundry."
- 9 Now just to pause there, HIA211, and tell you that
- 10 what the Good Shepherd Sisters have said to us and SR49
- in her statement said that girls would have been bathed
- on arrival in the convent. Their hair would have been
- washed and checked for nits. It would only have been
- cut maybe if there was nits or it was so tangled that it
- 15 needed to be cut. You just remember getting your hair
- 16 cut. Isn't that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And the clothes that they gave you they said would have
- 19 been clean, would have been warm and would have been
- 20 clothes that fit you, but that nobody wore a uniform.
- 21 A. I did for definite.
- 22 O. You did wear a uniform?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You thought your name was changed because there were
- already too many [name redacted] there.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But what the nuns have said is that the reason that they
- 3 changed girls' names was to protect their identity, to
- 4 protect their privacy so that other people could not ask
- 5 them about their background and would not know where
- they came from, because some people maybe had very
- 7 unfortunate upbringings and backgrounds and that's why
- 8 they did that, but you didn't -- they never explained
- 9 that to you, HIA211. Isn't that so?
- 10 A. No, they didn't.
- 11 Q. They just told you, "You are going to be known as
- 'HIA211' from now on"?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. One of the reasons you were telling me that you thought
- 15 you were younger when you went into Good Shepherd is
- 16 because you had been at school in before you
- 17 went to Derry.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You had been at school, but you were taken out of school
- 20 --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- and then put to work in the laundry when you arrived
- 23 at Good Shepherd.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. That's why you thought you were much younger than we now

- 1 know that you were.
- 2 CHAIRMAN: Could I just ask, Ms Smith, although we are not
- 3 looking at HIA211's experiences after the age of 18,
- 4 when did she leave The Good Shepherd?
- 5 MS SMITH: She was 30 when she left, Chairman.
- 6 CHAIRMAN: When she was 30?
- 7 MS SMITH: Yes.
- 8 CHAIRMAN: So that would be 1975?
- 9 MS SMITH: '75.
- 10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
- 11 MS SMITH: HIA211, paragraph 3 here you go on to describe
- work in the laundry. You said you did various jobs in
- the laundry during your time there. One of your jobs
- was to -- I am not sure -- parley mark the clothes. Is
- that the little label that were put on to clothes?
- 16 A. We had to use different labels for different washes,
- 17 yes.
- 18 Q. That was your job, to sort it out?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. "Two men drove vans around Derry and collected laundry
- 21 from various places. They brought the laundry to the
- Good Shepherd in big bags. I would mark the different
- loads with different coloured stripes, for example,
- a blue stripe, to identify where it came from. Then the
- laundry went to the other girls to sort. The laundry

1 was washed and tumble dried and pressed in a big roller.

2 All the work took place in one big room. There were

about four or five girls operating the dry cleaners,

four or five operating the five washing machines, two

5 girls operating the two tumble driers, three on one side

and three on the other side of the roller which ironed

7 the laundry. If any of the machines broke down, we all

had to do the work by hand. There was a workroom above

the big machine room where they had to sew the clothes

10 and do the mending."

You say the first year you were there, when you would have been under 18 for part of that time, you just cried and cried. You did not know where you were and you missed your friends in the place that you had been before you came to the Good Shepherd, HIA211.

16 A. Yes.

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17 Now I am going to pause there and just say a couple of things that the nuns have said to the Inquiry about the 18 laundry. They said, first of all, this was all big 19 machines that did the work in the laundry and work was 20 21 not done by hand. There may have been some garments 22 that needed to be washed by hand, but generally if the machines broke down, then, for example, there was one 23 nun who insisted that the rosary be said to get the 24 25 workmen there quickly to get the machines fixed. Do you

- 1 remember that?
- 2 A. Well, if the machinery was broke down, sometimes we used
- 3 to have to iron the shirts, you know.
- 4 Q. By hand?
- 5 A. By hand, yes.
- 6 Q. But you didn't actually have to wash the clothes by
- 7 hand. Is that what you are saying?
- 8 A. All the nylon shirts had to be washed by hand.
- 9 Q. SR49, who has given a statement to the Inquiry, has said
- 10 that she does not remember you -- she remembers you, but
- she does not remember you being upset, and if she had
- seen this or witnessed this, she would have done
- something to comfort you.
- 14 Now I was explaining to you that she came to the
- 15 Good Shepherd Convent in Derry in -- sorry. I've just
- got the wrong statement there. Just get that right.
- 17 She came in 1961, which was before you arrived. So she
- was there when you arrived, but she started working in
- the garden for a few days and then she was working in
- laundry up until 1970. So she says she worked in the
- laundry when you arrived. That's why she is saying she
- did not see you crying, and if she had seen you crying,
- she would have tried to help you.
- 24 A. I think she worked in the dry cleaning department, which
- 25 -- I worked in the other -- you know, the parley mark.

- 1 Q. You don't remember seeing her there really. Isn't that
- 2 what you were saying to me?
- 3 A. Not really, no.
- 4 Q. She certainly . It was
- 5 SR312 who was
- 6 Paragraph 4 you say that:
- 7 "There were quite a few girls in the Good Shepherd,
- but it was mostly older people there when I went."
- 9 You were one of the youngest and you went there with
- a couple of other young girls. There were two rooms for
- the girls around your age, a blue room and a pink room.
- 12 You were in the pink room and you name the girls who you
- 13 were in that dormitory with:
- "The older girls and women stayed in a dormitory.
- I moved there when I was older. I don't know what age
- 16 I was."
- 17 The congregation have said that from the 1970s
- onwards there was refurbishment and the bigger
- dormitories were divided up into cubicles. You remember
- that happening, do you?
- 21 A. Yes. There was four in each cubicle.
- 22 Q. Four in each cubicle?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Paragraph 5 you talk about a woman who was, as you
- remember her, a civilian worker there, GSC6. I will

just use her first name. You said:

"She used to come round and wake you up at about 7'clock. You were told to get up and go to mass, and if we didn't get up, she used to write it on a slip of paper and give it to SR312 to inform her that you didn't get out of your beds. After we got up we went downstairs and went to mass in the chapel in the premises."

You say:

2.

"Mass was at 7.30. After mass you got breakfast about 8.00 and then went to work about 8.30. For breakfast we usually got porridge, but sometimes I had a slice of tea with a cup of bread instead (sic). It was never enough food and I was hungry. We got a cup of tea at 10.00 am, got our lunch about 1.00. It was all right, but it was tasteless. I think we only ever got meat on a Sunday and we usually ate vegetables and potatoes. The nuns used to stand over you at the table if you did not eat your vegetables."

You did not like vegetables:

"... but you had to eat them, as the nuns would come up behind you and slap you across the face if you didn't. We were never allowed to talk at meals. After lunch we just went out to the yard and we used to walk up and down. There was nothing else to do. We were not

- allowed to go out to town or anywhere. We went back to
- work at 1.30 and finished around 5.00. The laundry
- 3 closed at weekends."
- 4 So a couple of things about that paragraph, HIA211,
- 5 and what you say there.
- 6 First of all, the nuns have said GSC6 was a very
- 7 bossy lady. In fact, they have said that she not only
- 8 bossed the girls around, but would have bossed the nuns
- 9 around as well. Even though they tried to get her to
- 10 stop doing this, she still continued on. They were not
- able to stop her being bossy. So they did recognise she
- was a bossy person.
- They said you did not have to go to mass every day,
- 14 although you would have been expected to go at least
- 15 a few times a week.
- 16 A. Well, when GSC6 came round and knocked at the door, we
- all had to get up, and if we weren't up when she came
- 18 back and knocked at the door, she used to write it down
- on the paper and say we didn't -- weren't out of our
- bed, but we were at mass every morning.
- 21 Q. They also say that work in the laundry started about
- 9 o'clock, but you say you weren't sure about what time,
- but it could have been about 9.00.
- 24 A. (Nods.)
- 25 Q. They also say they tried to give good nutritious food

- and the food was served from a large bowl. So you could
- 2 have as much of that as you wanted. Do you remember
- 3 that?
- 4 A. No, no.
- 5 Q. You were telling me when we were talking --
- 6 A. They used --
- 7 Q. Sorry.
- 8 A. They used to come into the refectory or whatever you
- 9 call it and serve out porridge to the girls.
- 10 Q. You were telling me, HIA211, there was a girl that came
- out of the kitchen and gave you a plate of food. It
- wasn't that you were able to go and stand in a queue
- and get your food dished out to you?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. You also were saying about being slapped if you didn't
- eat your vegetables, and I was asking you: who would
- 17 have slapped you for doing that?
- 18 A. The nun sitting on the rostrum.
- 19 Q. We have heard from the congregation that during meal
- times a nun might have read out from a book or from
- a newspaper.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. That's right. Was that so that you didn't talk; that
- 24 you weren't allowed to talk during that? You talk about
- not being allowed to talk during meal times.

- 1 A. No, neither were we. The nun used to sit in the rostrum
- 2 and read a book.
- 3 Q. SR49 in her statement said no-one was ever slapped
- 4 across the face; that corporal punishment wasn't allowed
- 5 in the Good Shepherd institutions; that it was against
- 6 the ethos of the congregation to strike any child.
- 7 A. Well, because I didn't know the song, the nun right
- 8 enough came down and slapped me on the face. She
- 9 came --
- 10 Q. That's something you talk about a bit later in your
- 11 statement and I will come back to that in a minute or
- two, HIA211, but SR49 has also said that by the 1960s,
- when you arrived in Good Shepherd, you didn't have to
- sit in silence during meals, but you are saying you
- 15 still did.
- 16 A. We did.
- 17 Q. You also talk about not being able to go anywhere and
- 18 you talk about this a few times in your statement. One
- of the points that the congregation has made is that you
- 20 could -- you couldn't go out anywhere really because of
- 21 The Troubles and the dangers that there were in Derry at
- 22 the time, although not maybe 1963, but girls were able
- 23 to go into town and spend their pocket money. Did you
- ever do that? Did you ever go into town? Did you ever
- remember getting pocket money, first of all, HIA211?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Do you ever remember going into town to do any shopping
- 3 with any of the other girls or with the nuns?
- 4 A. I used to have -- I remember when the Trouble was really
- bad, I remember us going out one Saturday, but we had
- 6 a senior person with us.
- 7 Q. And I think you were telling me that because of The
- 8 Troubles, you weren't able to get back. You all got
- 9 lost.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You couldn't get back the way you would have normally
- 12 got back.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. Paragraph 6 here you go on about what happened after
- 15 work. You used to go to the workroom, watch television
- for a while, and if there was any kissing came on the
- television, SR48, who was in charge of packing the
- 18 clothes for collection in the laundry, blocked it with
- a newspaper. She has since passed away.
- You said the rosary in the workroom and then went
- 21 down for evening tea at 6 o'clock. You describe you
- 22 would get a slice of ham or a slice of tea -- or a slice
- of tomato -- I beg your pardon -- for tea. The nuns
- have said there was a full evening meal provided. Do
- 25 you remember that?

- 1 A. No, there wasn't.
- 2 Q. Did you get a full meal at lunchtime then? Is that what
- 3 you remember, HIA211?
- 4 A. We got our dinner at lunch hour.
- 5 Q. Dinner at lunchtime and then it was a lighter meal in
- 6 the evening?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You go on to say that you went to bed for 9 o'clock.
- 9 You weren't allowed books and you weren't allowed to
- 10 talk. That's -- you are talking there about being in
- the dormitory that you weren't allowed books and you
- weren't allowed to talk. Did you have access to books
- at any other time, at the weekend, during the day or
- 14 anything like that?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 O. "If we didn't do our work ..."
- 17 Sorry. You go on to talk about the dormitory. You
- say there was a nun supervised you in the dormitory and
- 19 she -- sorry. That was the girl GSC6 actually. It
- 20 wasn't a nun.
- "It was GSC6 who supervised us in the dormitory and
- if we talked in bed ...",
- she made you stand outside your cubicle. Again the
- 24 nuns recognise that this was a bossy lady.
- 25 "There were four beds in each cubicle and many

Page 18 cubicles in the dormitory. If we didn't do our work 1 properly in the laundry and we didn't clean our cubicles properly or anything like that, the nun or GSC6 would 3 note down on a slip of paper what you did not do. We 4 called it 'getting black booked', and SR312 noted down 5 the contents of the slips in the black book." 6 That's why you called it being black booked. "On Sunday we went into a big room and sat on the 8 9 chairs. SR312 read out the names of the girls noted in the black book and what they had done wrong. She would 10 call out your name", 11 the name [name redacted], as that is how you were 12 13 known. "We had to stand when our name was read out and then 14 15 kneel and say 'Sorry'. It often happened to me. It was

humiliating and I dreaded Sundays."

Now the congregation have said there was such a practice in their institution in Derry, and it certainly was prevalent in Derry in the 1950s, but had stopped by the mid-1970s. Do you remember that there was a time when this didn't happen anymore, HIA211?

- 22 Α. I think when SR49 it stopped.
- Well, we know that 23 0. as you were
- 24 leaving in 1975.

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25 stopped before she took over

- 1 do you think?
- 2 A. Maybe. I don't know.
- 3 Q. Okay, but she certainly didn't approve of this practice
- and recognised that it wasn't a good thing to be doing.
- 5 So she -- it certainly stopped in the '70s.
- 6 Paragraph 8 you talk about going to . You
- 7 say that the priest told SR312 what you had said in
- 8 . You name the priest there. I am going to
- 9 use the name there, HIA211. You said it was a GSC7 who
- 10 came and took . What the nuns have said is
- there was not a GSC7 who was a in the convent,
- 12 that it was a who came and took
- , and that GSC7 was a priest in the diocese in
- Derry, working there, but he didn't take in
- 15 the convent.
- 16 A. No. He was -- he was that time
- 17 and he came and heard our
- 18 Q. I was asking you --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You said that you thought he of the
- and sold SR312 Why do you think that
- happened, HIA211? Why do you say that happened?
- 23 A. Because SR312 when she was giving out the black books,
- she said this to me, I had sinned, and she said, "Stand
- you up, HIA211" and I stood up, and she said what I told

- 1 the priest in the
- 2 Q. So that's how you think that he told her?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Paragraph 9 here you go on to talk about being in the --
- 5 you thought you were about 13 when you were doing
- an opera called The Maid of the Mountain, and the girl
- 7 who had the principal part was sent to Newry, so you
- 8 were given her part. You had to learn the songs and
- 9 dress up in a sort of a wedding frock. You don't know
- 10 what happened to the frock, but you thought it might
- 11 have caught on a nail. It tore at the end and you had
- to tell SR312 and as punishment you say you had to stand
- a full week for your meals and eat standing up. You say
- that was a common punishment.
- Now a couple of things about that is SR49 says yes,
- indeed, that was a form of punishment, that girls had to
- 17 stand up and take their meals standing, but it wasn't
- a punishment that would have been given for something
- 19 like tearing a costume, and it wasn't something that
- 20 would have happened that you had to stand for a whole
- 21 week. You might have had to stand for one meal, but it
- wouldn't have happened for a full week, HIA211.
- 23 A. No, I stood for a full week for definite.
- 24 Q. And you thought it was maybe GSC18 as well who you told
- 25 --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- that you had ripped the costume.
- 3 A. She was in charge of the costumes, GSC18.
- 4 Q. But it was SR312 who punished you?
- 5 A. No, SGSC18.
- 6 Q. GSC18, because in your statement you have got -- I know
- 7 you can't see it, HIA211, because we have blocked it
- 8 out, but you think that might be wrong. You're saying
- 9 it was actually GSC18 and not SR312 who imposed this
- 10 punishment?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Paragraph 10 you say when you were young, one of the
- jobs was to scrub the refectory floor on your hands and
- knees along with about seven or eight other young girls.
- "It usually took place on a Friday and it took all
- day. Usually a nun was supervising us and we weren't
- 17 allowed to talk."
- Now SR49 says yes, there was cleaning that went on
- and certainly there was scrubbing of the floor, but she
- thought that that was something the girls enjoyed doing,
- 21 the polishing of the floors. It was something that was
- fun and there was singing, and it was a bit of a carry
- on, if I can put it that way.
- 24 A. No. We were on our knees scrubbing. We had wee small
- 25 scrubbers scrubbing the floor.

- 1 Q. Do you remember it being fun at all? Do you remember
- 2 having fun doing that, though, HIA211? I know it was
- a chore, but was it a fun chore in any way?
- 4 A. No, it wasn't, no.
- 5 Q. You talk in paragraph 11 about never being allowed out
- 6 to dances. Again I have said to you that in The
- 7 Troubles the nuns in their statements to the Inquiry
- 8 have said they were dangerous times and they had to look
- 9 after their girls and therefore they weren't allowed to
- 10 go out.
- 11 You said that when you were older, you wanted
- a proper job and you wanted to do hairdressing. You
- used to do the older women's hair. It was so good that
- the other girls thought they had been out at
- a hairdresser. You asked SR312 if you could go and do
- hairdressing, but she wouldn't let you?
- 17 A. That's true, yes.
- 18 Q. The other thing that they said about not being allowed
- out was that people did come in and entertain the girls.
- I mean, for example, they say that in 1967 Phil Coulter
- came and gave a concert in the convent or in St. Mary's.
- 22 Do you remember that?
- 23 A. Yes, I remember that, yes.
- 24 Q. And do you remember anybody else coming in?
- 25 A. No, I don't, no.

- 1 Q. But you girls yourselves put on concerts between
- 2 yourselves and had musicals. You were talking there
- about the Maid of the Mourne was one of those concerts.
- 4 A. The Maid of the Mountain.
- 5 Q. Sorry.
- 6 A. Like when I went there first, I got -- the girl that was
- 7 going to Newry, I got her place.
- 8 Q. Yes. You didn't know -- you say here you didn't know
- 9 you were in Derry until you were 18 or 19. That again
- 10 you thought was because you thought you went in a lot
- 11 earlier. What you are trying to explain to the Inquiry,
- HIA211, is because you were taken from the home that you
- had been living in in and taken to the Good
- 14 Shepherd, nobody explained to you where you were or what
- was happening to you. Is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Sorry, HIA211. I can see that you are getting upset.
- If you need to take a break at any time, please just
- 19 say. I think the point that you want the Inquiry to
- 20 understand is that nobody told you what was happening in
- 21 your life. Isn't that really what you are trying to say
- in this paragraph?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. It was some of the older women in the home who told you
- where you were actually living. You say:

- 1 "You never got out of the Good Shepherd. We were
- just slaving from morning to night. When the nuns were
- away to the convent, they locked the big brown door of
- 4 the home part of the laundry so we wouldn't get out. We
- 5 never got paid for the work we did in the laundry and it
- 6 was like a prison."
- 7 Now SR49 has said that doors were not locked.
- 8 Nobody was locked in the laundry. All doors could be
- 9 opened from the inside and that Sisters worked in the
- 10 laundry alongside the women. Did the nuns work in the
- laundry with you, HIA211?
- 12 A. No. We done all the work, the girls.
- 13 Q. I think you said to me when we were talking that the
- 14 nuns were there and kept the books?
- 15 A. Well -- sorry. When we done -- when we done the work,
- the books -- the books had to be priced. That's what --
- that's the only thing the nuns done.
- 18 Q. So I think when we were talking earlier you were
- explaining to me that it was the girls who did all the
- 20 heavy work. The nuns might have kept the records for
- 21 the laundry and that kind of task.
- 22 A. That's what they done, yes.
- 23 Q. And they may have -- might they have helped with the
- 24 packing?
- 25 A. Well, you see, the packing room was off separate from

- 1 the laundry.
- 2 Q. And you didn't have anything to do with that?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Another thing that you tell us about your time there is
- 5 that:
- 6 "On a Saturday we used to go out and gather potatoes
- 7 in the fields which belonged to the convent. We used
- 8 our hands to dig as we had no spades. We were there
- 9 from 9.00 to 5.00 and we never even got a glass of water
- or a drink. SR312 was in charge of us at the time, but
- she didn't come up to the fields and I think senior
- 12 girls supervised us there."
- Now the congregation have said that there would have
- been two Saturdays a year when the potatoes were
- 15 harvested and it would only have been around that
- October/November time. They said there was a great
- sense of fun and occasion, that the nuns who were fit
- and able to go into the fields went and helped the
- 19 girls, and that after the harvest there was a special
- dinner held. Do you remember any of that, HIA211?
- 21 A. No, no, no.
- 22 Q. Do you remember any of the nuns helping out with the
- 23 digging?
- 24 A. No. We would go out every Sunday -- every Saturday,
- because when they used to say to us, "Come on out to the

- 1 potatoes now", we used to hide from the nuns. We didn't
- 2 want to go out.
- 3 Q. Well, when you say digging the potatoes, the potatoes
- 4 could only have been dug up after they had grown at
- 5 a certain part in the year, HIA211. Did you do other
- 6 work in the fields or work in the gardens in any way?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. No? Just the potatoes?
- 9 A. Potatoes.
- 10 Q. Paragraph 14 of your statement you say that you were
- never taught how to cook, to tell the time or how to use
- 12 a phone. You were never taught how to handle money.
- "We were never paid for the work we did in the
- laundry. We lived and went to work in Good Shepherd and
- I never knew any other life. Around 1971, when the new
- money came into force, SR312 made us line outside her
- office. She then brought us in and asked us one by one
- to identified 1p and 2p coins. I didn't know what they
- were and she slapped me across the face."
- Now in 1971 you would have been aged 27 at that
- 21 point in time, HIA211. So you wouldn't have been
- a child, but nonetheless you say that SR312 struck you at
- 23 the age of 27.
- 24 A. Aye, because we didn't know the money. It was only new.
- 25 Q. I will come back to what some of the nuns say about

- 1 teaching life skills in due course, but paragraph 15
- 2 here you say that you once ran away from Good Shepherd
- 3 to the chapel in the Waterside and you met another --
- 4 you met a priest there and told him how you were living
- 5 and he brought you back to Good Shepherd. You think you
- 6 got punished by being made to stand for your meals and
- you never ran away again.
- In paragraph 16 you are explaining why you ran away.
- 9 You say you remember you did a concert and that concert
- 10 was supposed to take place on the date that the Bloody
- 11 Sunday events happened in Derry, and you had to write
- the words of the song "The Bells of St. Mary's" down,
- because you had never heard of it. You say that SR312
- slapped you across the face because you didn't know the
- words, and you think you were about 27 at the time, and
- 16 that would have been -- in January 1972 you would have
- been around that age, HIA211.
- 18 So when we were talking earlier, I think you said
- that it was SR48 who had actually slapped you, not SR312.
- 20 A. No. SR48 was playing the piano and SR47 slapped me on
- 21 the face.
- 22 Q. Because you didn't know the words of the song, of the
- 23 hymn?
- 24 A. (Nods.)
- 25 Q. You remember there was another girl who you name here,

- 1 GSC9. I am just going to use her first name. You
- 2 remember her getting a job in the kitchen and working
- 3 with SR49.
- 4 "She was in her 20s and didn't live in Good
- 5 Shepherd. They became in charge of the kitchen and SR49
- treated her well and taught her how to cook and how to
- 7 drive a car. The rest of us were not taught anything
- 8 and did not receive any good treatment. That's
- 9 an example of how we were discriminated against."
- 10 You then talk about where you thought SR49 was
- 11 living.
- 12 The congregation have said this lady GSC9, she was
- not a girl -- she was not a resident in Good Shepherd.
- 14 She was somebody that they employed to work in the
- 15 kitchen. She lived at home in Derry. She never lived
- in or anything like that. You would agree with that,
- and I think the point you were making was they were able
- 18 to employ somebody to come in and work in the kitchen,
- but they couldn't pay you for the work that you were
- doing. Is that the point that you were making, HIA211?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You said to me when we were talking that they treated
- employees better than you, even though you were working
- there.
- 25 They have said that they did teach life skills to

- 1 girls. There were typing classes and some girls went
- 2 out to tech to evening classes. Do you -- you yourself
- 3 never experienced that?
- 4 A. No, no.
- 5 Q. Do you ever remember anybody else going out to evening
- 6 classes or anybody talking even about their typing or
- 7 anything?
- 8 A. No, I don't.
- 9 Q. Paragraph 18 you were saying here that around '72/'73
- 10 you were sent for. That was SR312 sent for you. You
- 11 thought you were in trouble. She told you that they
- were allowing you and another girl, whose first name was
- GSC10, to go out and live in a flat on trial to see how
- 14 you could cope living away from Good Shepherd. You
- still had to go back and work there during the day.
- 16 Your flat was a 10 to 15-minute walk. You got your
- meals in Good Shepherd, and you were paid you said very
- 18 little, about £12 a week, out of which you had to pay
- 19 all your bills. You say it was difficult. The other
- girl got a second job to help pay the bills, but you
- liked it, because you had freedom. You could never have
- asked to leave the laundry. She would not have allowed
- you. The other girl has since passed away.
- Now I am just going tell you about some of the other
- 25 statements that we have got from some of the nuns.

- SR293 who came in 1964, would have been there when
- you were there, when you arrived. You arrived in '63.
- 3 So you were over 18 when she arrived, but she remembers
- 4 SR49 as having a lovely way with the ladies and the
- 5 general atmosphere in Derry as being homely and warm and
- 6 relaxed. Is that your recollection, HIA211?
- 7 A. Sorry. What was that?
- 8 Q. Do you remember SR49 having a lovely way with the ladies
- 9 in Good Shepherd in Derry?
- 10 A. I never seen -- I must have been out that time.
- 11 Q. You don't remember actually having any real interaction
- 12 yourself --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- with SR49?
- 15 A. SR49, no.
- 16 Q. Do you remember day trips and holidays?
- 17 A. I remember we went on holiday to Culdaff.
- 18 Q. In County Donegal?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You said that -- when we were talking about that, you
- 21 said it was a long time ago, and GSC6 was still alive at
- 22 that time and SR312 was in charge when you went on that
- holiday.
- 24 A. So she was, yes.
- 25 Q. Do you remember going every year on holiday?

- 1 A. No, it was only once.
- 2 Q. I was asking -- we have heard there was a tennis court
- and netball. There was a girl who came from Thornhill
- 4 College to coach the girls in tennis and netball. Do
- 5 you remember that happening?
- 6 A. Yes. That was a Sunday.
- 7 Q. There was a great tradition of music in the Good
- 8 Shepherd. SR293 remembers you as being in the choir and
- 9 being a very good singer. You were in the choir,
- HIA211, were you not?
- 11 A. I was in the choir, yes.
- 12 Q. And did you enjoy that?
- 13 A. Yes, it was okay.
- 14 Q. She also says that SR312 was firm and strict, but she
- 15 never saw her hit anybody.
- 16 A. Well, for definite -- now I don't care what you say, but
- 17 like for definite she hit me, because I didn't know the
- song.
- 19 Q. She also makes the point that it wasn't safe to go out
- at night.
- 21 SR294 in her statement was said there was not
- a uniform for girls. The girls wore their own clothes,
- and while the nuns had different habits that they wore,
- girls had ordinary, everyday clothing to wear?
- 25 A. Well, for definite when I went -- myself and my friend,

- 1 we went, we were for definite put into a --
- 2 Q. A uniform.
- 3 A. -- frock for definite.
- 4 Q. Did that change?
- 5 A. We got -- excuse me. Sorry. We got a bath and they put
- 6 them frocks on us.
- 7 Q. Did that change, HIA211? Did you get to wear your own
- 8 clothes later on?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. SR294 also remembers GSC6 as being bossy, but she
- 11 says she never saw SR312 strike or hit anyone. She says
- she was firm and she was strict, but she doesn't believe
- she would have hit anybody.
- 14 A. But she wasn't there. We were practising for the
- concert, and SR312and another nun were sitting there and
- 16 Sister -- SR48 was playing the piano and we were
- 17 standing just there.
- 18 Q. Well, the other thing that she has said is that the
- nuns, as you might expect, would find it hard to believe
- 20 that a priest would
- and say what you had said in
- 22 A. Yes, for definite. SR312 even gave us out on a Saturday
- the black book.
- 24 Q. She has also said that she gave -- she and other nuns
- gave lessons to some of the teenagers. They taught them

- 1 English, they taught them arithmetic, they taught them
- 2 typing and they taught them geography. You didn't get
- any lessons, HIA211. Is that right?
- 4 A. No, I didn't.
- 5 Q. Do you ever remember anybody going to any classes in the
- 6 convent or ...?
- 7 A. I remember some woman used to come in. I think you
- 8 called her . I think she used -- she used
- 9 to come in.
- 10 Q. Do you remember what she came in to do?
- 11 A. I don't know if it was typing. I don't know what it
- was. It was something anyway. She came in and taught
- us, a couple of us, like, you know, the older ones,
- like, you know, in the pink room or the blue room, but
- 15 that was at night-time.
- 16 Q. Okay. So it was like an evening class --
- 17 A. Yes, something like that, yes.
- 18 Q. -- after your day's work. I am going to -- there are
- some photographs that the Inquiry has just got. I am
- going to ask that they be called up on the screen,
- 21 HIA211, and just have a look at those and tell us what
- 22 you recognise.
- 23 If we could look at GSC5053, first of all, please,
- 24 now this is -- you probably can't -- just at the
- left-hand side it says "Entrance to Good Shepherd

- Convent, Derry", HIA211. Is that -- that wasn't where
- 2 you lived, sure it's not? That's where the nuns would
- 3 have lived. Is that right?
- 4 A. That's the nuns' apartment.
- 5 Q. Yes, and I think there is another photograph of that we
- 6 can see at the next -- if we can scroll down to the next
- 7 page, please. We can see there is a cross on
- 8 a building. That would have been a chapel. That may be
- 9 in later years?
- 10 A. That's the nuns' apartment too. That was just sitting
- in the pass (sic).
- 12 Q. That white building that we see?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. But if you can just see at the right-hand side, you can
- see a cross on the wall there. Do you see the arrows
- 16 pointing to it?
- 17 A. The chapel was sort of near the -- near the nuns'
- 18 apartment.
- 19 Q. Okay. There is another photograph -- just scroll down
- to the next page, please. Is this where you lived,
- 21 HIA211? Can you remember? You see, if you look at the
- right-hand side, there is a little cross at the end.
- 23 Might that have been the chapel at that end of the
- 24 building? Sorry. At the left-hand side. I beg your
- 25 pardon. Just see right at the top there the little

- 1 cross.
- 2 A. The chapel was sort of off a wee bit where the nuns
- lived. It wasn't far from where the nuns lived.
- 4 Q. Right, but do you recognise this building, this big red
- 5 brick probably building?
- 6 A. That's part of the chapel too.
- 7 Q. Then the next page, if we can scroll down, this is
- 8 described as the dining room. You can see that there
- 9 are a number of chairs there. I am not sure if it is
- set up actually as a dining room. It is quite hard to
- 11 tell. There may be a table in there, but there were
- 12 glass doors that divided the dining room off from
- another room. Is that right?
- 14 A. There was all -- there was all tables in the dining
- 15 room.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. That's --
- 18 Q. When we were looking at this photograph earlier, you
- didn't immediately recognise it as the dining room. It
- is not how you remember it.
- 21 A. No. It was all tables and chairs.
- 22 Q. Although you did -- and you did talk to me about the
- glass doors. You can see there just at either side,
- 24 HIA211, there are like folding glass doors that could
- 25 fold back. Is that right?

- 1 A. Yes, yes.
- 2 Q. Then the final photograph then is of the theatre and
- 3 stage. We can see there is sort of various posters have
- 4 been drawn. Did the girls make those posters, do you
- 5 know? If you don't know, HIA211, that's okay.
- 6 A. No. That's the stage there where we used to have the
- 7 concerts or the ...
- 8 Q. Is that where the piano was and is that where --
- 9 A. The piano was further on down.
- 10 Q. In that room?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Well, going back to your statement at page 050, HIA211,
- 13 you talk about what life was like for you after you
- eventually did leave. I am not going to go into the
- details of that. As I explained to you, the Inquiry
- Panel have read about what your life was like, but you
- talk about in paragraph 20 of the effect that this has
- 18 had on your life. You say:
- 19 "When you have been raised in homes all your life,
- 20 you find it very hard to mix with people. I was behind
- 21 walls in Good Shepherd hidden away. When I left,
- I still hid behind walls. I could not face anybody."
- You talked in paragraph 23 about how you were one of
- the people who received money through the Republic's
- 25 redress scheme, but unfortunately

- 1 to be HIA211.
- 2 Isn't that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Look, HIA211, that's all I want to ask you about your
- 5 time in Good Shepherd. I haven't gone through
- 6 everything that's in your statement, but the Panel and
- 7 the Inquiry have read all that you want to tell us about
- 8 your time, but is there anything that I have missed out
- 9 or you feel it is important that the Inquiry should
- 10 know? Now is your chance to say whatever else you want
- 11 to say about your time in Good Shepherd, HIA211.
- 12 A. I don't remember that much, because, you know ...
- 13 Q. You were there for quite a few years. Isn't that right?
- 14 A. Aye. When you are pushed from home to home, like, you
- don't remember anything, you know.
- 16 Q. Well, one other question, HIA211, and I was explaining
- to you that we ask everybody who comes to us, is just
- about what recommendations this Inquiry should make to
- 19 the Northern Irish Government after it finishes its
- 20 work. Are you all right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Have you given any thought since we last spoke a little
- while ago about what those recommendations might be,
- 24 what you think they should be?
- 25 A. I don't know.

- 1 Q. Well, HIA211, thank you very much for coming along.
- I can see that it has been difficult for you, but the
- 3 Panel may have some questions. So if you would just sit
- 4 there a little while longer. Thank you.
- 5 Questions from THE PANEL
- 6 CHAIRMAN: HIA211, can I just ask you about the time when
- 7 you arrived? We have heard that the records show that
- 8 you were about 17 and a half when you came into the Good
- 9 Shepherd from we gather. Is that right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You went straight to work in the laundry, as
- 12 I understand it.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. Were there any girls who you knew or who seemed to be
- 15 younger than you working in the laundry at any time you
- were there, either when you arrived or later on?
- 17 A. No. It was all old people that were working there.
- 18 There was a couple -- when I was there for a while,
- a couple of younger ones, they came.
- 20 Q. Well, I know when you are a teenager, everybody who is
- 21 more than a few years old looks like an old person
- sometimes, but you worked there until you were 30. When
- you say younger people came in, were these people who
- you thought might have been at school normally or were
- 25 they in their 20s or what can you say?

- 1 A. They were -- there was a girl. She came from Faughan,
- and then there was two that came from the Nazareth House
- 3 in Belfast.
- 4 Q. Now we know that Faughan is in County Donegal --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- and there was a babies' home there at one stage. Is
- 7 that what you mean, or from somewhere else?
- 8 A. No. There was a girl and she was working with the
- 9 children.
- 10 Q. I see.
- 11 A. And all because -- she used to say to me all because
- this boy asked her out at nights the nuns put her up to
- Good Shepherd.
- 14 O. I see. Can I ask you about a different thing, HIA211?
- You have described how, if you did something wrong, it
- 16 would be entered in the black book --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- and you described how on I think more than one
- occasion you were made to stand for quite a long period
- at meal times as a punishment. Is that right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You have heard it said that the Good Shepherd Sisters
- would say, as I understand it, that would have happened,
- but only for one meal, but I understand you to say that
- you were made to do that for quite a number of days. Is

- 1 that right?
- 2 A. I was standing for a full week.
- 3 O. A full week?
- 4 A. Yes, I was for definite.
- 5 Q. Was that for each meal each day?
- 6 A. Yes, for your breakfast and for your evening meal and
- 7 your lunch --
- 8 Q. And your lunch?
- 9 A. -- at 1 o'clock.
- 10 Q. And you've said the main meal was at lunch-time during
- 11 the day. Is that right?
- 12 A. Yes. About 1 o'clock, yes.
- 13 Q. You said that you weren't allowed talk at meals, but
- a nun sat on the rostrum and read a book. Does that
- mean she read it out loud to everybody?
- 16 A. Sometimes she would read it out to you and sometimes she
- 17 wouldn't.
- 18 Q. Yes, but whether or not the nun was reading out a book,
- were you allowed talk if she wasn't reading?
- 20 A. Sorry?
- 21 Q. Were you allowed talk if the nun wasn't reading out
- 22 loud?
- 23 A. No. We wasn't allowed to talk. We had to keep quiet,
- 24 silence.
- 25 Q. So whether or not the nun was reading anything out, you

- 1 still had to keep quiet?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I see. Can you remember what sort of things she would
- 4 read out?
- 5 A. It was all kind of like a holy book.
- 6 Q. Yes. It has been suggested that sometimes the nun might
- 7 read from a newspaper, but you remember it being a holy
- 8 book?
- 9 A. No. They never had the paper. It was always a book.
- 10 Q. And was it always the same nun who read out or was it
- 11 a different nun from time to time?
- 12 A. No. It was different nuns took their turns of sitting
- 13 with you, you know --
- 14 O. I see.
- 15 A. -- in the refectory or whatever you call it, you know.
- 16 Q. And whoever was doing it that day would then -- if they
- 17 read something out, it was from a holy book?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. I see. Thank you very much, HIA211. My colleagues
- 20 might want to ask you a question or two now.
- 21 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very, HIA211. Can I just check? I know
- 22 you've said that you were slapped for not knowing the
- words of the song, but you also talked in your statement
- about being slapped for not eating vegetables. Is that
- 25 right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And when would that have been? Would that have been
- 3 when you first went to the ...?
- 4 A. Well, the nun used to go round all the tables and make
- 5 sure you ate your vegetable or your vegetables, whatever
- 6 you call it, you know.
- 7 Q. Was it just this one nun would have slapped you for not
- 8 eating your vegetables?
- 9 A. It was the nun. It wasn't SR49. I don't know what you
- 10 called her, but it was the nun. She used to sit on the
- 11 rostrum -- right -- and she used to -- when we got our
- dinner, she used to come around all the tables and see
- if you are eating your vegetables, you know, and if you
- 14 weren't ...
- 15 Q. Was that one nun in particular, HIA211, or was that any
- of the nuns that were sitting up at --
- 17 A. No, one nun.
- 18 Q. Just one nun, but you can't remember her name?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Okay. Can I ask, see on the Sunday when the black book
- 21 was read out --
- 22 A. It was Saturday.
- 23 Q. Saturday -- would you be given your punishment then?
- Would you be told, "Because you have done this, you are
- going to have to stand during your meals"?

- 1 A. Saturday, Saturday when she gave the black book, yes.
- 2 Q. So on a Saturday if you had done something wrong, you
- 3 would kneel to say "Sorry", but you would also be told
- 4 what your punishment was?
- 5 A. Aye. You would have to stand or ...
- 6 Q. You would be told --
- 7 A. Yes, yes.
- 8 Q. -- what you were going to do.
- 9 You see at night, HIA211, did a nun sleep near you
- 10 at night or were you ...?
- 11 A. No. There was four in each cubicle of the girls, and as
- 12 you came up the steps, the nun's room was there.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. That was just going into the dormitory, you know, at the
- beginning, and then there was another nun sleeping at
- 16 that end.
- 17 Q. And did they involve themselves with you or did they
- just keep to their own ...?
- 19 A. They just kept to their own ...
- 20 Q. Kept to their own -- and were you able then to have
- a chat at night in bed? Could you talk?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. You had to be quiet then --
- 24 A. Quiet in bed.
- 25 Q. -- as well.

- 1 Last thing, HIA211. Are there good things that you
- 2 remember? Are there good things in terms of the other
- 3 girls or activities?
- 4 A. Well, the only good thing I really remember was after
- benediction on a Sunday we used to go outside and have
- the records on and dance. That was the only good thing.
- 7 Q. You have that memory of doing that. Okay. Thanks very
- 8 much, HIA211.
- 9 MR LANE: In terms of the black book times do you feel that
- 10 you got picked -- you said you dreaded those. Do you
- 11 feel you got picked on more than other girls or were the
- 12 all the girls spoken to in that way?
- 13 A. Well, it was nearly all the younger ones that SR312 you
- know, used to get down, you know.
- 15 Q. So each Saturday there would be a number of girls would
- be mentioned, would they, or was it just one or two?
- 17 A. It may have been a couple, you know.
- 18 Q. Right. Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA211, you will be glad to hear that's the
- last question we want to ask you. Thank you very much
- 21 for coming to speak to us today.
- 22 A. Right. Thank you.
- 23 (Witness withdrew)
- 24 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by
- 25 Mr Aiken, but if we take a short break, I am sure he

- 1 will be ready shortly.
- 2 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise just for a few minutes.
- 3 (11.20 am)
- 4 (Short break)
- 5 (11.30 am)
- 6 WITNESS HIA107 (called)
- 7 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.
- 8 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning.
- 9 The next witness today is HIA107, who was HIA107 --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- but HIA107 now. She is "HIA107". She is aware,
- 12 Chairman, that you are going to ask her to take the
- 13 oath.
- 14 A. Yes.
- WITNESS HIA107 (sworn)
- 16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HAI107. Please sit down.
- 17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
- 18 MR AIKEN: HAI107, coming up on the screen will be your
- 19 witness statement. We talked about -- if we can bring
- 20 up 037, please -- we talked about the black marks that
- 21 are going to be on it --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- which are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You want to keep your anonymity?

- 1 will be ready shortly.
- 2 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise just for a few minutes.
- 3 (11.20 am)
- 4 (Short break)
- 5 (11.30 am)
- 6 WITNESS HIA107 (called)
- 7 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.
- 8 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good morning.
- 9 The next witness today is HIA107, who was HIA107 --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- but HIA107 now. She is "HIA107". She is aware,
- 12 Chairman, that you are going to ask her to take the
- 13 oath.
- 14 A. Yes.
- WITNESS HIA107 (sworn)
- 16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HAI107. Please sit down.
- 17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
- 18 MR AIKEN: HAI107, coming up on the screen will be your
- 19 witness statement. We talked about -- if we can bring
- 20 up 037, please -- we talked about the black marks that
- 21 are going to be on it --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- which are part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You want to keep your anonymity?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you just check that the version that's on the screen
- 3 matches the first page of the statement that you have --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- except for the black marks.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Then if we move through, please, to 044 --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- just check that that matches the last page of your
- 10 statement, HAI107.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And that you have signed your statement and you want to
- adopt it as part of your evidence to the Inquiry?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Now, HAI107, as I said to you, bear with me just for
- a few moments till I give the Panel some references in
- our electronic library of documents where material
- 18 relating to you can be found.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. Chairman and Members of the Panel, we have a response
- 21 statement now from the Health & Social Care Board, which
- is at GSC1145 to 1147. You will see in that statement
- 23 that particular attention is drawn to the order that
- sent HAI107 to the Good Shepherd Convent in Derry, which
- we will look at shortly, and The Health & Social Care

Page 47 Board's position at present based on the material that's 1 available is that she does not appear to have been in the care of County Welfare Authority at the time 3 she is sent to the Good Shepherd in Derry, albeit the 4 Board accept that towards the end of her stay, when 5 applications are made to the court for her to be 6 released from the care of the Good Shepherd to go off to live with her brother, that at that stage County 8 9 Welfare is involved and, as the Panel are aware, there are a number of reports from , who worked for 10 County Welfare Authority at that stage. We 11 will come back to this issue, because I know it is 12 13 something that has to be clarified. So in addition to the Health & Social Care Board 14 15 response statement then there are a number of response statements from the nuns of the Good Shepherd, who are 16 17 in a position to comment about life in Derry. 18 The first is SR49 or SR49, as she was known to you 19 20 Α. Yes. -- HAI107. That statement is at GSC265 to 277. 21 Ο. 22 SR293 who was there between , so just before HAI107 left and then beyond HAI107's time, and 23 that statement is at 278 to 284. 24 25 Then SR283 , who was there for

- a short nine-month period in the end of , is at 285
- 2 to 286.
- 3 Then there is a statement from Sister Eithne on
- 4 behalf of the congregation about SR312 as she was known
- 5 to you, HAI107 --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- and we will talk a bit about her shortly. That
- 8 statement is at 560 to 562.
- 9 HAI107, having said all of that, you were born on
- 10
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And are now aged .
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You are the of siblings.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. So there was a large family.
- 17 A. Uh-huh.
- 18 Q. You had difficult home circumstances.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You explained to me, and we will not go into the detail
- of it, but mostly related to the behaviour of your dad.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And your parents ultimately were not able to look after
- you as far as the court was concerned.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And you have explained to the Inquiry that since your
- time in care you have been married and your husband is
- with you today. He has travelled with you. You have
- 4 children of your own.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I know when we talked about the letters that you wrote
- 7 to SR312 in recent years, you referred to her the fact
- 8 you had had children and gave her some
- 9 photographs of them. We will talk a little bit more
- 10 about that.
- Now from the records that are available you go into
- the Good Shepherd Convent in Derry on
- 13
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. At that stage you were and months. In fact, you
- were three days before your birthday.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You remain there until --
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. -- when you'd turned . You were there for four years
- 21 and three months.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. The circumstances of you going into the Good Shepherd
- are something that you found very difficult.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You were explaining to me that you have been extremely
- 2 angry about those circumstances --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- for a very long time.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I am going to look at the court order. If we can look,
- 7 please, at 3015. The background to this you explain in
- 8 your statement at paragraphs 4 and 5. You and two other
- girls, GSC16 and GSC17 --
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. We use their names, but their names won't be used beyond
- 12 the chamber. It is just so that we can be clear who we
- are talking about.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. GSC16 and GSC17, the three of you were indecently
- 16 assaulted by men in
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. There was a court case as a result of that.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. But shortly after the matter came to the attention of
- 21 the police you were brought before the court and
- an order was made for you to go and live in the Good
- 23 Shepherd in Derry.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. The order is on the screen at the moment, and the Panel

- can see that the application under section 63 of the
- 2 Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1950
- 3 allowed different organisations, including the police,
- 4 to bring an application to a court to say, "This is
- 5 a child in need of care and protection".
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. So it could be the Welfare Authority or it could be
- 8 someone else. In this case according to this record it
- 9 is the RUC who bring the matter to the attention of the
- 10 magistrate, and the magistrate makes an order that
- 11 because, according to the record, your parents are not
- exercising proper care and guardianship of you and you
- are exposed to moral danger, the magistrate ordered that
- 14 you be taken into the care or be committed to the care
- of the Good Shepherd Convent in Londonderry until you
- 16 were 18.
- 17 A. Uh-huh.
- 18 Q. The point the Health & Social Care Board make about that
- is it is not County Welfare Authority that you
- are placed in the care of, but you seem to be placed in
- the care of the Good Shepherd Sisters.
- The result of that is that you are taken to the Good
- Shepherd, and you remember that happening.
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And you were explaining to me that your friend GSC16 was

- 1 taken at the same time.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But you explain in your witness statement that your
- 4 GSC17 -- sorry -- that your other friend GSC17 --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- was already there --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- when you arrived.
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. So she had already been taken to the Good Shepherd.
- 11 A. Yes, yes.
- 12 Q. You were explaining to me that GSC16 lived in the Good
- 13 Shepherd with you --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- all the time that you were there.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. We were discussing the communications you had in later
- 18 years with the nuns, and you were saying she has
- 19 remained close to the nuns --
- 20 A. Very.
- 21 Q. -- and communicated with them in later years as well.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can you remember did you share a room or was your bed
- 24 near GSC16's bed?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. No?
- 2 A. She was in a different dormitory to what I was.
- 3 Q. Were there other young people in the dormitory that you
- 4 were in that you can remember?
- 5 A. Not young people. Most of the people in the Good
- 6 Shepherd in Derry were middle-aged, elderly or 30s, 40s,
- 7 20s. We were the only three of the -- of young ones.
- 8 Q. I have said to you the Inquiry has seen a record which
- 9 suggests certainly in there might have been --
- there might have been about eight people who
- were under the age of 18.
- 12 A. Fairly young, yes.
- 13 Q. Do you remember other teenagers being there?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. If you don't remember, just say so.
- 16 A. Oh, yes, yes, I do.
- 17 Q. But the point you are making is there were small numbers
- 18 of --
- 19 A. Very small.
- 20 Q. -- teenagers.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. I am not going to open them, but just on the subject of
- 23 HAI107 coming into the Good Shepherd, Members of the
- 24 Panel, we do have the court record of the indecent
- assault that she suffered. That court record is at 3290

- 1 to 3292. I am not going to bring that up on the screen.
- 2 If we can look at the record -- I know Mr Fee is
- looking into whether we can get the original admission
- 4 record, but I am going to just show on the screen
- 5 GSC3016, which is the record of you coming into the Good
- 6 Shepherd as far as it has been transposed from records
- 7 that the Good Shepherd had. It records that you are
- 8 brought by Sergeant Wall, a policeman. Then it records
- 9 "under County Welfare". We are
- going to try and look into that further, because it is
- 11 not clear at what point the first reference to
- 12 County Welfare might have been taking place.
- But you remember your mum coming up to visit you.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And you remember your brother -- one of your older
- 16 brothers coming.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And I think you mentioned there was a second older
- 19 brother came to visit you.
- 20 A. No, not the second one.
- 21 O. Just one?
- 22 A. Just one.
- 23 Q. And your mum would have come on occasions?
- 24 A. My mother came twice in those four years.
- 25 Q. You were explaining to me that during those visits

- she -- there would have been a nun present.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. I was explaining to you that SR49 has explained to the
- 4 Inquiry that you were placed with the nuns because your
- 5 parents were said to have been not looking after you
- 6 properly.
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. And that may well explain why the visits would have been
- 9 supervised.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You were saying to me you can -- when you think about
- 12 that, you can understand --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. -- the rationale for it.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. But the point you were making to me is you were never
- 17 able to go out.
- 18 A. Never.
- 19 Q. And the only time that you left the Good Shepherd was to
- 20 take part in a -- was it a feis?
- 21 A. Yes. A singing competition of some sort. I went out
- once to the singing competition, a feis, yes.
- 23 Q. Is that the only time you can recall leaving before you
- left for with your brother?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I want to ask you -- if we look at paragraph 9 on the
- 2 screen, please, at 039, you say:
- 3 "We never received any schooling."
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. "There was no education."
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. "We just worked."
- I am going to talk to you a bit more about the work
- 9 that you did.
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. But do you have no recollection of going out to school?
- 12 A. No, none, none whatsoever. There was no schooling for
- any of us.
- 14 Q. Can you explain to the Panel what were the arrangements
- for you going to school before you were put in the Good
- 16 Shepherd Convent?
- 17 A. I was just -- I had just started the Intermediate School
- in . I had been there a few weeks and that was
- it. The next thing I was gone.
- 20 Q. So these events happen, the indecent assaults. You are
- 21 brought before the court. You are sent to the Good
- 22 Shepherd. You don't ever go to a school in Derry?
- 23 A. No, no.
- 24 Q. You weren't --
- 25 A. I haven't been to school since I was just before

1 Q. You didn't go to the school, the Intermediate School in

- 2
- 3 A. Just for a few weeks before I went in there.
- 4 Q. Not while you were staying in the convent?
- 5 A. Oh, no, no.
- 6 O. SR49 --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- as you know, is one of the few nuns -- and you were
- 9 making this point to me -- who is still alive --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- who can remember your time in the Good Shepherd in
- 12
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. The point that she makes to the Inquiry, if we just put
- it on the screen, please, at 268, and it is (vi) -- if
- we scroll down, please -- she said she was not in charge
- 17 during your time. SR312was in charge --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and I will come back to her.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. But she does recall that -- you knew her as GSC20 --
- 22 A. GSC20.
- 23 Q. -- took some of the younger girls for lessons. I was
- asking you: could you remember her teaching you?
- 25 A. No. GSC20 never taught anything.

- 1 Q. Well, you were saying to me you could remember being
- 2 taught catechism.
- 3 A. Catechism, yes.
- 4 Q. Who taught you for that?
- 5 A. I can't quite remember the nun, but there was one nun.
- 6 That's what she just did. She taught -- had us for
- 7 catechism. There was nothing else.
- 8 Q. Could that have been GSC20?
- 9 A. No. It was another nun, but I can't remember -- she
- 10 came from the convent part of the --
- 11 Q. Where do you remember GSC20 being?
- 12 A. GSC20, she worked in the packing room. That was where
- she stayed.
- 14 Q. Now in the next paragraph of SR49's statement, and she
- does in fairness begin the second sentence with:
- "I imagine that she would have worn her school
- 17 uniform during the week and ordinary clothes upon her
- 18 return each afternoon to St. Mary's."
- But what you are saying is you never went -- you
- didn't have a school uniform, because you didn't go out
- 21 to school.
- 22 A. No, no way. That never happened.
- 23 Q. Now we were discussing at some length, and I am going to
- summarise this down, HAI107, that in later years you
- 25 wrote letters to SR312

- 1 A. I did.
- 2 Q. And you brought to the Inquiry not the letters you
- wrote, because they went off and you did not keep copies
- 4 of those, but the letters that you received in return
- 5 from **SR312**
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. There are two letters of that kind, and then there's
- 8 a letter from **SR290** explaining that SR312 had
- 9 since passed away on the last occasion.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. I want to look at the letter that -- if we look, please,
- 12 at 3284, and we can see -- if we maximise that as much
- as we can. You know these letters, because you brought
- them to the Inquiry.
- 15 A. I did, yes.
- 16 O. You remember them.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. We can see on the left-hand side of the page but the
- right-hand part of the left-hand side just about the
- centre the date is given of 3rd July '59. Now that's
- clearly an error. It may well be it's 89 it relates to
- 22 or '99 --
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. -- because you will see in the first section SR312is
- 25 talking about having been seriously ill --

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. -- and about various changes that are happening in the
- arrangements for the Sisters and where they are living.
- It was in later years; it was not way back in the --
- 5 A. Early years.
- 6 Q. Yes. It's not the '50s that you were writing to SR312
- 7 and receiving her reply.
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. It was over the last twenty years that this took place.
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. I want to look at the next page, please. In fact, no.
- 12 Sorry. If we just -- yes. She is replying to a letter
- that you have written to her --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- and she says, if we move on to the next page, please,
- at 3285, so it is the third part of this card that she
- has written back to you -- just move on to the next
- page for me, please, and just pause there. You can see
- she's expressing some views about you having met
- an Irishman and got married and that you deserve to be
- 21 happy. Then she said:
- , because you were a great girl when you were
- 23 here. GSC20 said you were very clever. She was
- teaching you. Do you remember?"
- 25 A. No. GSC20 never taught me, never. There was no

- schooling whatsoever for any of us.
- 2 Q. The point I was making to you earlier is obviously SR49
- 3 has expressed a recollection about GSC20 teaching.
- 4 A. Uh-huh. Yes.
- 5 Q. Here SR312 for no other reason than replying to you
- 6 about a warm letter you had written to her --
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. -- and we were agreeing about your letters would all
- 9 have been warm to SR312 reminding you of something that
- she is remembering about GSC20 teaching you.
- 11 A. It might have been the catechism, but there was nothing
- 12 else. I wasn't taught nothing.
- 13 Q. You don't remember being taught English or geography or
- 14 ...?
- 15 A. No, nothing.
- 16 Q. You mentioned to me that you could remember four of you
- 17 getting a go at typing.
- 18 A. Yes. One evening after the laundry closed a couple --
- about four or five of us was took up to a room where
- there was typewriters and we did two lessons in
- 21 typewriting and that was it.
- 22 Q. Do you remember who took that?
- 23 A. No. It was probably one of the nuns, but I just
- remember two lessons and then it just came to an abrupt
- 25 end.

- 1 Q. Now if we look at paragraph 9 of your statement --
- I will come back to the SR312 later -- if we look at 039,
- please, HAI107, you talk about working in the laundry.
- What I want to mention to you first -- I am just going
- 5 to summarise it and you tell me if I have got this right
- 6 so that we create a right impression for the Panel.
- 7 A. Uh-huh. Yes.
- 8 Q. You worked in the laundry premises during the day --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- and then at night-time there was the recreation hall.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you would have been in there, and you said you were
- one of the young ones.
- 14 A. Messing about, reading.
- 15 Q. So you were larking about --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- or reading or playing Snakes & Ladders or that type
- 18 of thing.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So that's where you would have spent your evenings in
- 21 your recollection.
- 22 A. Yes, yes.
- 23 Q. But during the day your recollection is that you worked
- in the sewing room.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I want to ask you about that, because from the statement
- 2 the impression is you are working in all these different
- 3 places.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What you were explaining to me was that SR312was like
- 6 a surrogate mother --
- 7 A. She was.
- 8 Q. -- to you.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And she -- the way you describe it was you were wrapped
- 11 round her finger and GSC16 was wrapped round --
- 12 A. GSC18.
- 13 Q. -- GSC18's finger.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And those two nuns worked at either end of the sewing
- 16 room.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And you mentioned a bell would be rung and you would win
- 19 the race to **SR312**--
- 20 A. To -- yes.
- 21 Q. -- and be sent by her to do various errands.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What were the sorts of things you were sent by her to
- do? Can you remember?
- 25 A. Oh, she would say, "Go to the kitchen and see ..." --

- just give me messages to do, or go to the wash-room. It
- was just taking messages here and there or that sort of
- 3 thing.
- 4 Q. Did you -- you were discussing with me earlier that you
- 5 could remember SR312 keeping you close. Is that a fair
- 6 way of describing it?
- 7 A. Yes, yes. I used to work in her office, and we used to
- 8 be -- I used to help her with paperwork and money and
- 9 all that kind of thing, because these women that were in
- this place, they all had a little purse each. I used to
- 11 put the money into -- they had names on them and they
- were in drawers. I used to put -- she would give me the
- money and I would put it in the little purses, and
- I used to do all kinds of little jobs like that, but my
- main job was making holy badges to sell. That was my
- main job, and if anybody got sick, I looked after them,
- because I used to be very quick.
- 18 Q. Let me pause you there. Okay. Making the badges is
- a reference to the work in the sewing room.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. SR49 has said, if we look at 270, please, that she
- 22 remembers you -- just scroll up to the page before,
- 23 please -- she remembers you working in the sewing room
- 24 --
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

- 1 Q. -- and she recalls you as being particularly good at
- 2 needlework.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. You would agree with her that was --
- 5 A. Oh, yes.
- 6 Q. -- that was the position. Had you learned that in the
- 7 convent?
- 8 A. Well, I'd learned a bit -- I just kind of did it
- 9 naturally. It just came natural to me.
- 10 Q. It wasn't something -- you hadn't done it before you
- 11 went into the convent?
- 12 A. Not really. I did a little bit in school, a little bit
- of sewing, you know, when you make little things in
- school, like an apron for the cookery lessons and things
- like that, just a little bit, but I think I just did it
- 16 naturally. I probably had guidance from -- there used
- to be like a woman sitting next to me called .
- 18 She would probably give me a bit of guidance, showed me
- how to crochet and how to make these badges, and then
- I used to just do them.
- 21 Q. If we scroll on to the next page, what SR49 is saying --
- and she arrived in
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. You were already there --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- when she arrived. She remembers you and talks about
- 2 you in the statement, as we were discussing, but she
- 3 says that she has no recollection of you working in any
- 4 department in the laundry other than in the sewing room.
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. Am I right in saying the vast majority of your time you
- 7 would have been in the sewing room?
- 8 A. Yes, plus the kitchen, and I used to fill in anywhere
- 9 where they needed help. There was a time when I went
- out and helped out on the farm bringing in the hay and
- 11 helping bring in the potatoes, all that kind of thing.
- 12 Wherever there was help needed and -- I'd go.
- 13 Q. SR312 would send you --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- to do something that needed done --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- but most of your time --
- 18 A. Was in the sewing room.
- 19 Q. -- SR49 would be right about that, that most of it would
- 20 have been spent in the sewing room --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- but what you are saying is not always.
- 23 A. Not always, no.
- 24 Q. The other point she makes, if we look at (viii) on
- 25 paragraph -- on page 270, we can see that -- you have

- 1 mentioned this already -- that another thing that you
- did was to help the sick.
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. And she remembers you being particularly good with the
- 5 sick people who were in the convent.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you remember doing that?
- 8 A. Oh, yes, like as it was yesterday.
- 9 Q. Apparently, according to her in any event, you were very
- 10 kind in how you undertook that work --
- 11 A. Uh-huh.
- 12 Q. -- and that it was acknowledged and appreciated.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And SR312in the letter -- if we look, please, at 3284,
- in the letter of 3rd July -- it is the one marked 1959
- 16 -- but if we can just maximise that, please, and again
- if we just scroll down on to the next page, we will find
- a reference to SR293 and the question being asked about
- 19 do you --
- 20 "When you were helping SR293 in the infirmary, the
- 21 sick loved you. You were a great worker and so tidy."
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You were saying to me you don't remember SR293
- 24 A. I don't remember SR293 no. Funny!
- 25 Q. Whether that's the same as SR293 who

- arrived in \_\_\_\_, or not I don't know, but that's -- SR312
- 2 remembers you helping her in the infirmary --
- 3 A. Oh, yes.
- 4 Q. -- and clearly in a positive way --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- as explained in that letter. Those are really the
- 7 main tasks that you performed until you left.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Is there anything I have left out --
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. -- that we maybe haven't covered or ...?
- 12 A. No. I think you have covered everything.
- 13 Q. Those are the things that you would have done?
- 14 A. That's what my life consisted of week after week. It
- 15 was like being in prison.
- 16 O. Now --
- 17 A. In fact, I think I -- the men got away and we were sent
- 18 to prison.
- 19 Q. The men who --
- 20 A. Abused us.
- 21 Q. -- abused you. Yes. Now I want to talk about -- you
- 22 mention in your statement some of the punishments that
- 23 you recall --
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. -- and I am going to deal with those now.

- 1 In paragraph 10 of your statement, and that's at
- 2 039, you refer to someone having had their hair cut off
- 3 as punishment --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and in fairness to you you could remember the name of
- 6 the girl.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. The first name was and you did not use
- 9 surnames.
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. I don't know if it would be possible to work out who
- that is, but when we discussed it, you remember her
- 13 lovely hair being cut off --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- but you assumed it was as a punishment.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Nobody ever told you that's what it was.
- 18 A. I don't -- I don't really know. All I know is that her
- 19 hair was all cut off. One minute it was here, and the
- 20 next thing she had got into trouble of some sort in the
- convent and her hair was all gone, and I don't know if
- somebody told me that was her punishment or I presumed
- 23 it was.
- 24 Q. But am I right in saying that you don't remember that
- 25 happening to anybody else?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. And herself never said to you that it was
- 3 because she had been punished that her hair had been cut
- 4 off?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. We were discussing the fact that there might be nits or
- medical issues that might have resulted in her hair
- 8 being cut.
- 9 A. Could have been, but I don't think so.
- 10 Q. That's how you --
- 11 A. Saw it.
- 12 Q. -- saw it.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Now as far as -- you describe a particular occasion --
- paragraph 13, please, at 040 -- which leads you on in
- 16 your statement to talk about a number of different
- punishments that we are going to refer to. You explain
- here that when you were , so towards the -- into the
- second half, as it were, of your time in the Good
- 20 Shepherd --
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. -- you ran away to the police station.
- 23 A. I did.
- Q. You told them you wanted to go home.
- 25 A. I did.

- 1 Q. They brought you back to the convent.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Basically what you are describing here is the nuns or
- 4 SR312 was very nice to the police, but after they left,
- 5 she was not at all happy with you --
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. -- for having brought the police to her door.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Now we were discussing -- you were talking about -- in
- 10 the statement it is described as thumping on the back --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- but you were -- you said to me when we were speaking
- earlier that you were never sexually or physically
- 14 abused --
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. -- in the Good Shepherd Convent.
- 17 A. No, I wasn't.
- 18 Q. What you were describing here or these words were
- intended to convey was you were walking back to the
- 20 convent with SR312--
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- and she was pushing you on.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So it is not the case that she was --
- 25 A. Plummeting (sic) me, no.

- 1 Q. -- thumping you on the back.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Am I being fair about that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Am I right in saying did you ever see anybody being hit?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. So that wasn't part of life --
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. -- in the convent that you recall?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. SR49 and SR293 have both said to the Inquiry that they
- don't ever remember a girl or a lady being hit by any
- 13 nun --
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. -- including **SR312**
- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. Am I right in saying that that mirrors your
- 18 recollection? You don't remember that ever happening?
- 19 A. No. It could have, but I don't -- I don't recall it.
- 20 Q. This was the only occasion whenever SR312 even did as
- 21 much as pushing you along.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Is that right?
- 24 A. They had other ways of dealing with you.
- 25 Q. I am going to come to those, but in terms of physical --

- 1 A. Physical, no.
- 2 Q. -- that's --
- 3 A. That was it.
- 4 Q. What you explain about this particular incident is that
- 5 no-one was allowed to talk to you for several weeks.
- 6 A. That's right.
- 7 Q. And SR49 has said to the Inquiry, as I was discussing
- 8 with you -- and this is at 272 -- we will not go to it
- 9 now -- SR49 says it is highly unlikely that a Sister
- ordered people not to speak to you --
- 11 A. Well --
- 12 Q. -- and she never remembered that being done in her time
- 13 at any stage.
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. But she speculated that perhaps people were annoyed that
- 16 you had run off and didn't speak to you.
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. What I was asking you then when we were speaking earlier
- 19 was could you remember an occasion when you were brought
- as part of a group and told, "Now don't be speaking to
- 21 Ann" --
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. -- or "Don't be speaking to Diane" --
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. -- or "Don't be speaking to Theresa"?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. So when you say they were told not to speak to you,
- 3 people didn't speak to you, and your belief about that
- 4 was someone had told them not to --
- 5 A. Uh-huh.
- 6 Q. -- but you don't remember ever hearing someone say,
- 7 "Don't talk to HAI107".
- 8 A. No. I was sent to Coventry by all the other women in
- 9 there, because I had run away, but after saying that, we
- 10 used to do a bit of sniggering and laughing. They used
- to snigger and laugh with me behind the nuns' backs. In
- other words, they were saying they were -- they thought
- I was a bit of a hero because I'd run away. I know it
- sounds ridiculous, but they did try to talk to me, and
- I do -- I know I am presuming that they were told not to
- speak to me, but that's the way it was. I still say
- they were made not to speak to me.
- 18 Q. I know -- I am just going show this to the Panel at this
- 19 point. If we look at 3016 -- and Mr Fee can look into
- for me what this is referring to -- but we can see on
- 21 the right-hand side of the screen, and this is obviously
- a later document that has been created from an original
- record, which may or may not still be available, but on
- 24 the right-hand side towards the bottom you can see:
- "In and out for court hearings."

- 1 Now you obviously don't remember being in and out
- for court hearings yourself, or can you remember that?
- 3 A. You mean when I was put in there?
- 4 O. Yes.
- 5 A. I was in -- I went in in and I went to court
- 6 I think it was either the or the the
- 7 following year.
- 8 Q. To deal with the criminal case?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Yes. You can see, Members of the Panel:
- "Brought -- ran away one time. Brought back by
- 12 police. See file for further details."
- So it certainly gives the impression on the face of
- it as this is transcribed from some other record that
- that other record wars recording the fact there was
- a file and one could find in it details, for instance,
- about the running away. What that is we will see if we
- 18 can explore a little further.
- But if we go back to paragraph 13 at 040, you
- 20 explain as part of talking about the running away that
- one of the punishments, if we scroll down to 13, was
- 22 that your chair was taken away in the refectory --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- and you had to eat your meal standing up.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. I was asking you -- you said to me earlier you were
- 2 SR312 pet.
- 3 A. I was.
- 4 Q. So am I right in saying that this type of practice
- 5 didn't happen to you very often?
- 6 A. Oh, if I broke any of the rules, yes, I was punished
- 7 just the same as everybody else.
- 8 Q. So you would have had to eat your meal --
- 9 A. Oh, yes. I have eaten my meal standing up --
- 10 Q. -- standing up?
- 11 A. -- for wrongdoing.
- 12 Q. Now SR49, if we look at 271, please, and this is (xix),
- we can see she refers to SR312 as being strict and firm.
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. You say you were her pet, but:
- "A standard punishment", according to SR49, "would
- 17 have been to make someone stand in the dining room
- during meals or to be sent to bed without supper. When
- 19 I arrived in , I did not agree with this sort of
- 20 punishment. We were keen to move on from the more
- 21 strict practices of the past and embrace a more homely
- 22 attitude to our ministry."
- There is another reference elsewhere. The Panel may
- 24 be left with the impression that when SR49 took over in
- , after you had left, that she brought this practice

- 1 that she didn't like to an end.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. The reason she gives elsewhere is she perceived it as
- 4 wounding. It was a you said to me humiliating thing --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- to be treated in that way.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You also make reference in paragraph 13, if we can go
- 9 back to 040, please, to something you call being made
- 10 sit under the throne.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can you just explain to the Panel what you mean by that?
- 13 A. The throne is in the -- in each room, in the recreation
- 14 room and in the refectory, they have like -- I can only
- describe it it is like a pulpit and the nun sits in the
- 16 pulpit while you are eating your meals and everything is
- done in silence, and she stays there reading her book,
- and when I ran away and was brought back, I was put
- 19 under the throne. That was a punishment for me, under
- 20 the throne on a little -- horrible little table on my
- own with an old tin plate and knife and fork. I had to
- stay there until they told me I could go back and sit at
- the table.
- Q. As far as silence is concerned, SR49 has said to the
- Inquiry that it certainly may well have been the

- 1 practice in the '40s and '50s, but she doesn't remember
- 2 meals taking place in silence during her time. She is
- 3 there -- shortly after you arrive she arrives, and she
- 4 is saying --
- 5 A. Yes, but SR49 didn't have that much to do with the
- 6 girls, with the women and the girls. She didn't have
- 7 that much to do with us. So she wouldn't know anyway.
- 8 Q. Well, she has said to the Inquiry she worked in the
- 9 laundry with the ladies between .
- 10 A. SR49?
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. Yes. She worked in the packing room as well. That's
- where she worked, in the packing room.
- 14 Q. In paragraph 15 of your statement, HIA107, you talk
- about the practice of the black book.
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. Can you just explain in your own words what happened?
- Now you have said SR312, you were her pet.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. But can you just explain to the Panel what way the black
- 21 book exercise worked?
- 22 A. Well, they had this black book, and each week -- if any
- of the other nuns caught you doing anything, breaking
- their rules, it would be written in this book, and then
- on a Saturday, after we cleaned all the laundry, we'd

- 1 come into the recreation room and SR312 would -- she
- 2 would just be there on her own and all the women would
- 3 gather in there in the recreation room and she would
- 4 call out your name. As soon as she called out your name
- 5 you had to kneel on the floor. Then she would shame you
- in front of everybody by saying what rule you had
- 7 broken, what it was you had done. It was some silly
- 8 thing that you had probably done, and that was just the
- 9 way they did it and that went on for an hour or so.
- 10 Q. So each person who --
- 11 A. Got called out.
- 12 Q. -- would be spoken, and everyone else would be aware
- then of what had happened?
- 14 A. Of what you had done, yes.
- 15 Q. You explain that one of the -- the punishment, if you
- like -- we were discussing the fact that from what you
- are saying these nuns didn't use canes --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- and hit you --
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. -- and abuse you in that way.
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Your punishment, a bit like might happen to children
- today, you were not allowed to watch the television for
- a while.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. That's how your misdemeanour, as it was seen, was dealt
- 3 with.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. But this process of the black book and it being read out
- 6 was something you describe as a horrible thing --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- to go through.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. SR49 speaks about that if we look at 274, please, and
- this is (xxxi), which is at the bottom of the page,
- toward the bottom of the page. Yes. She says you are
- quite correct about that process, and she recognises
- that those who used that black book were having to look
- after a large number of people, and it would have been
- part of perhaps maintaining order, and again its use was
- 17 discontinued by the . So I take that to be when
- she takes over, she puts an end to it.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. We can see she felt according to the last sentence:
- "I felt the black book may wound a child's feelings"
- 22 -- scroll down -- "and in my view at that time we were
- keen to embrace a more kindly, tender approach, which
- I felt was more in keeping with the charism of our
- 25 ministry."

- 1 So she didn't agree with it either and seems to have
- 2 put an end to it --
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. -- when she was in charge.
- 5 A. Uh-huh.
- 6 Q. In paragraph 14 of your statement, if we go back to 041,
- 7 you talk here about the food being like slop.
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. I was saying to you that in the statements of the nuns
- 10 who have been able to speak to the Inquiry that
- 11 exercised them. I was explaining to you that the Order
- has explained to the Inquiry that cooking for and
- ensuring that those they were looking after were
- 14 properly fed was seen as a central piece of their
- 15 ministry --
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. -- and therefore it was important to them and something
- 18 that was taken care over.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. SR49 has said that she ate the food that SR291
- 21 who was in -- you were saying to me you think when
- I name SR291, you can remember her.
- 23 A. I remember SR291 , yes, in the kitchen, but she
- 24 did not eat the food.
- 25 Q. SR49 you felt did not eat the food?

- 1 A. She didn't. None of the nuns ate the food with us.
- 2 They had their separate convent and their separate
- 3 cooking and kitchen and they ate all of the nuns
- 4 together. The nuns never ate with us. They never ate
- 5 the same food as us.
- 6 Q. I take from what is being said to the Inquiry that
- 7 although there was a kitchen in the convent and then
- 8 a kitchen in St. Mary's, it was the same foodstuffs that
- 9 were being used.
- 10 A. I don't know. I don't know.
- 11 Q. The point that SR49 makes is that she says she did on
- occasions eat the food and that it was --
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 Q. -- simple food, but well prepared, nutritious, healthy
- and people didn't go without.
- 16 A. No, we didn't go hungry.
- 17 Q. Yes. You were saying to me earlier perhaps your word
- "slops" was a bit far further than --
- 19 A. Maybe it's a bit of an exaggeration, but it wasn't -- it
- wasn't nice.
- 21 Q. You don't have a memory of the food being nice?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. In paragraph 16 of your statement, HAI107, you talk
- about -- I am trying to summarise your time in the Good
- 25 Shepherd --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- for the four years -- that it was emotional abuse.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. What you mean by that is you felt you had to suppress
- 5 your feelings.
- 6 A. Everything.
- 7 Q. And you describe an occasion when you were crying, you
- 8 were shouted at.
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. Do you remember what the circumstances of that was?
- 11 A. My mother had come to see me with my little sister, and
- when she left, I just couldn't stop crying. I wanted to
- go home, and that's -- that's it, and you just get told
- off for -- they don't like you to show any emotion,
- because they don't show any emotion at all.
- 16 Q. You say in this paragraph, although I think SR49 has
- said that's not how she remembers it, but that you
- 18 weren't allowed to talk --
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. -- without permission.
- 21 A. Without permission.
- 22 Q. Now obviously SR312 must have talked to you --
- 23 A. Oh, yes, yes.
- 24 Q. -- because you were hand-in-hand with her, as it were --
- 25 A. Working together.

- 1 Q. -- but --
- 2 A. But only about business, about what we were doing.
- 3 Q. So not about feelings?
- 4 A. Oh, no.
- 5 Q. But you would have been able to -- you didn't need her
- 6 permission to talk to her when you were working with
- 7 her. That's what I am getting at.
- 8 A. Yes, I didn't need it.
- 9 Q. What SR49 has said, if we look at 275, please, and it is
- 10 (xxxii), if we scroll down -- if we can just go back up
- a little bit, please -- she has said to the Inquiry on
- behalf of the congregation that she is so sad to read
- 13 you say that --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- that she was grieved to read that you felt that the
- nuns who were there were not sensitive to your needs and
- 17 to your feelings.
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. Her memory was that they were doing their utmost to
- respect each of the people who were there and treat them
- 21 with love and kindness.
- 22 A. Well, they would say that, wouldn't they?
- 23 Q. Am I right in saying, though, you can remember SR312
- 24 being like a mum to you?
- 25 A. Not exactly like a mother. She was -- she was okay with

- 1 me, you know. She was there. I was there. I suited
- 2 her to do all the errands for her, but there was no
- 3 affection or anything like that, not a mother in that --
- 4 in the sense that I think of a mother. I just worked
- 5 with her. I did what she told me to do.
- 6 Q. The point that SR49 makes in the next paragraph, HAI107,
- is about, you know, she has continued to have a good
- 8 relationship with many people that were --
- 9 A. In there.
- 10 Q. -- in the Good Shepherd with her. I am not going to go
- through the detail of the letters that SR312 wrote back
- 12 to you --
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. -- on foot of you communicating with her --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- but I summarised the position to you earlier, that
- 17 you appear to have been writing in very warm terms --
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. -- to **SR312**
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Am I right in saying that right up until after she died
- 22 you weren't complaining about your time in the Good
- 23 Shepherd to her or anybody?
- 24 A. I never complained to any of the nuns about how unhappy
- I was. I never complained to any nuns. You just could

- 1 not do something like that.
- 2 Q. You were explaining to me that when the Inquiry came
- 3 round, you saw it as an opportunity to let the anger
- 4 out.
- 5 A. Yes, to expose them.
- 6 Q. But you were also --
- 7 A. Expose the place. What the court did was sending me to
- 8 such a horrible place, a child -- well, the three of us.
- 9 Why would the court send us to such a horrible place
- 10 where it was full of misfits? What was it about? Why
- 11 was I being punished? I didn't know what I was doing
- when I was a child. I was just running the streets.
- This other girl, GSC16, that I talk about, I just
- followed her. Where she went I went. So I was running
- 15 the streets like a feral.
- 16 Q. I think we were having a discussion earlier and I was
- explaining to you that the court obviously reached
- 18 a decision that your parents were not able to look after
- 19 you.
- 20 A. Well, they didn't look after me.
- 21 Q. They didn't look after you.
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. That's why the decision appears to have been made to
- 24 place you in somewhere where you would be looked after.
- 25 A. Yes, but why didn't they -- why didn't they go after my

- 1 sisters? Social Services or nothing ever become
- 2 involved with my family.
- 3 Q. Well, you explain in your statement that some members of
- 4 your family were taken into care.
- 5 A. Yes, years later, yes.
- 6 Q. And I have used that to say to the Health & Social Care
- Board can we see if we can find their records and see if
- 8 that allows us to find out anything more about you.
- 9 A. Yes. I did have a brother and a sister who were taken
- away.
- 11 Q. Do you remember their dates of birth, for instance?
- 12 A. What, my brother?
- 13 Q. Your brother who was taken into care.
- 14 A. He went into care up in not very long after
- I was put away.
- 16 Q. What was his first name?
- 17 A.
- 18 Q.
- 19 A.
- 20 Q. Do you remember his date of birth?
- 21 A. Yes. It is . He is about months younger
- than me. So what would that be? I can't -- I am not
- too good at working that out.
- 24 Q. Well, we will leave it till --
- 25 A. He is about months younger than me.

- 1 Q. Miss Murphy will see if she can work it out for me and
- 2 we will see if that takes us any further.
- 3 A. He was born in
- 4 O. You had a sister who was taken into care.
- 5 A. I had a sister. When she became a teenager, she was
- a handful, and she was stealing money from my mother and
- 7 father. They were elderly. My father was quite old
- 8 when he had a second family, and she was -- I wasn't
- 9 there. I was in , but I was told that she was
- 10 stealing money from them in the house --
- 11 Q. What was her --
- 12 A. -- and she was a handful and so they apparently --
- 13 Q. What was her name, HAI107?
- 14 A.
- Do you remember her date of birth?
- 16 A. Well, she's years younger than me. That's all
- 17 I --
- 18 Q. That's what you remember.
- 19 A. You see -- oh, gosh! Because we were all kind of apart
- 20 --
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 A. -- we are not up on birthdays very --
- 23 O. Yes.
- 24 A. -- and four have died anyway. So ...
- 25 Q. You were explaining to me, though -- and we will not go

- into the detail of it -- that when you came out --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- your dad tried to do something to you that was wrong.
- 4 A. My father made a pass at me.
- 5 Q. Yes, and --
- 6 A. I left again and I stayed away for two years. When
- 7 I came back to see my mother, I brought somebody with me
- 8 --
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. -- because I didn't want to be in his company.
- 11 Q. The conversation that you and I were having was about
- 12 you could see how the court were trying to do something
- 13 --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- to take you away from a situation --
- 16 A. From that.
- 17 Q. -- that was not good.
- 18 A. Uh-huh. Yes.
- 19 Q. You talk in paragraph 16 about -- 041, if we look at
- 20 that, please -- a change -- you could remember people's
- 21 christian names being changed and you did not use
- 22 surnames.
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. SR49 has said that was -- the reasons for that were to
- 25 protect people's privacy, that it wouldn't be possible

- for everybody to know everybody else's business.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. But you were saying you were always known as "
- 4 ".
- 5 A. I was.
- 6 Q. The practice of doing that didn't harm you as such that
- 7 you can recollect. You were known as "
- 8 A. Well, they treated me -- because they were quite old in
- 9 my eyes, and they were -- some of them were quite old,
- 10 40s, 30s, 20s, a few teenagers -- and they used to
- always refer to me as " and they babied me,
- 12 treated me like as if I was -- so therefore when I came
- out, I couldn't cope. I just couldn't cope. I was so
- institutionalised that it took me a long time to get on
- my feet mentally.
- 16 Q. Well, you talk about -- in paragraphs 17 and 18 of your
- 17 statement you talk about that series of events. I am
- going to just summarise it, HAI107, rather than go into
- 19 the detail of it. The Panel have the material relating
- 20 to it.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. But it seems that an application was made using your
- 23 brother who was in --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- for you to go and live with him, and that was

- originally turned down --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- in
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- and then that application was made again in
- 6 of --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- whenever a job was then available in the
- 9 where he was based.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And the magistrate agreed to release you from the care
- of the Good Shepherd --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. -- and the order seems to have come to an end at that
- 15 point. You went to . Then there's -- you know
- the detail of the documents from --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- and the Panel have them. I am not going to open the
- 19 detail of those.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. They use language perhaps of its time.
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
- 23 Q. The flavour of them is concern that -- getting you
- 24 stabilised and, in fact, you pointed out to me this
- 25 morning in the documents it talked about trying to take

- 1 you back in front of the magistrate and have you sent
- 2 back to the Good Shepherd.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Ultimately then things did settle down when you went to
- 5
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. But you were saying to me that -- we have concentrated
- 8 in looking at the negative memories that you have of
- 9 your time in the Good Shepherd, but you were saying to
- 10 me that there were positive things in the four years as
- 11 well.
- 12 A. Yes, I suppose there was really I suppose, although
- I can't think of -- I can't think of any, to be quite
- 14 honest. I did --
- 15 Q. You told me your mind was --
- 16 A. It did do something for me and I probably was better off
- than if I had been left at home, but I don't -- I can't
- say exactly what was positive about it, because I think
- it was all abuse mentally. It stayed with me. I mean,
- I was took advantage of a lot when I came out of the
- 21 convent, because I was too innocent. Even though --
- I know it sounds ridiculous that I was put away because
- I was sexually abused, but at that time I didn't
- 24 understand about sexual abuse. I didn't -- I didn't
- 25 realise what was -- I can't explain it.

- 1 Q. Well, we were having a discussion earlier you will
- 2 recall --
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. -- about how we know much more about lots of things now
- 5 --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- that may not have been properly understood at
- 8 an earlier point in time --
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. -- and the importance of trying to judge events of
- a particular point in time based on what is known at
- 12 that point in time.
- 13 A. I think the courts did me a lot of harm putting me in
- there and I resent it. I always will. They should have
- put me into a proper place where I could go to school.
- I don't resent being put away. I do understand why, but
- then why did they never bother with my other four
- 18 sisters? I mean, there's probably stuff going on there
- 19 as well.
- 20 Q. HIA107, there's two questions that we ask each witness
- 21 towards the end of their evidence --
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
- 23 Q. -- I mentioned to you earlier. The first is about
- recommendations. At the end of the Panel's work the
- 25 Panel has to consider what recommendations they might

- 1 make to the Northern Ireland Government in three areas:
- 2 some follow of apology --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- some form of memorial of some kind or not, or some
- 5 other means of redress.
- 6 A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. We ask each witness whether there's anything they want
- 8 to say to the Panel to help the Panel's thinking about
- 9 what recommendations they might make. Is there anything
- 10 you want to say to the Panel about that?
- 11 A. I think they should apologise to me and I think they
- should compensate me as well for what they did to me,
- because what they did to me was wrong, more so than what
- the nuns.
- 15 Q. Who is "they" that you are ...?
- 16 A. Well, whoever -- I am not educated. I don't know --
- 17 Q. You mean --
- 18 A. -- who is responsible for making these decisions to put
- me into such a horrible, horrible place.
- 20 Q. So it's the putting you there --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- you blame more than the nuns themselves?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. I mean, yes, the nuns weren't -- it wasn't -- it wasn't

- their fault, was it, that I was there, but I hold the
- 2 courts responsible. They could have chose a better
- 3 place to put a child into. I mean, that was worse than
- 4 what the men did.
- 5 Q. As I said to you, HAI107, it's a question that's vexed
- 6 us and we have been trying to get as much information as
- 7 possible.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And it's a question that it may well be we have to
- 10 explore further. One can speculate all sorts of
- 11 reasons. Maybe there were no other beds, as I said to
- 12 you, in other places or there were nobody that could
- take three girls at the one time. One can speculate all
- sorts of reasons, but at this point in time it has not
- been possible to establish exactly why the decision was
- made in the way that it was.
- 17 A. I don't think so.
- 18 Q. It may be we can't take that any further.
- 19 A. Well, somebody should pay for what has been done to me.
- 20 Q. The last question, as I said to you, that I ask every
- 21 witness is whether there's anything else about their
- time in the institution we are looking at, which in this
- case is the Good Shepherd in Derry. Maybe it's I have
- 24 not summarised something accurately, or I have not
- covered something that you want to cover, or maybe it is

- just something else that we have not talked about that
- 2 you want to say about your time there. Now is your
- 3 opportunity to do that if there's something else you
- 4 want to say.
- 5 A. I will just say this. Through me being put in there --
- 6 right -- it broke the bonds with my family. Now you
- 7 might say, "Well, that's no big deal, because you come
- from a horrible family anyway". Well, I didn't. My
- 9 father was the problem. He was the drinker. He was the
- one who didn't take any interest in his children. So,
- 11 therefore, I have no contact now with my -- it was like
- I came home and I was a stranger. Do you understand
- what I'm saying? The bonds were broken. That's what
- happened. I was so institutionalised. I was sitting
- there and I -- in the house and I even asked permission
- to go to the toilet. That's how bad it was. So ...
- 17 Q. HAI107, I am not going to ask you any more questions you
- 18 will be pleased to know. If you bear with us for
- a short while, the Panel Members may want to ask you
- 20 something. So just bear with us.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Questions from THE PANEL
- 23 CHAIRMAN: HAI107, you have made it very clear that you
- 24 blame those who made the decision to put you into the
- 25 Good Shepherd Convent. Can I just ask you some more

- 1 questions about what happened at that time? Do you
- 2 remember being taken from the court to the convent in
- 3 Derry?
- 4 A. Being taken? Sorry?
- 5 Q. Do you remember being physically taken from the court to
- 6 the Good Shepherd in Derry?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And who took you?
- 9 A. I left Barracks in a car with GSC16 and
- 10 a policewoman and we were taken down to Derry. I was in
- 11 school that day, and after school I went to the
- 12 barracks. They put the two of us in a car and took us
- off to Derry. We stayed in the convent until -- that
- 14 was . Yes, I think it was , and in the
- the following year -- you see, I was asking the
- policewoman what was going on and she said, "Oh, we are
- just putting you away for a few weeks until all this
- dies down", because it was in the paper, the court case
- 19 I suppose. I don't know. So then in the
- took us to court, and that's when they committed me to
- 21 this place.
- 22 Q. Well, do you remember going to give evidence against the
- 23 men?
- 24 A. Yes, vaguely remember it, yes. I think it was Belfast.
- 25 Q. Yes. Have you any recollection of who took you to

- 1 Belfast? Was the police or the Sisters or --
- 2 A. No, it wasn't the nuns.
- 3 O. -- the social worker?
- 4 A. No. It was a police officer. I think it was the woman
- 5 police officer.
- 6 Q. Who maybe came to Good Shepherd, collected you --
- 7 A. I think it was the same one.
- 8 Q. -- brought you up to Belfast?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you remember giving evidence?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And then --
- 13 A. I don't remember what I said.
- 14 Q. No, but you remember being in the court room?
- 15 A. I remember being in the witness stand.
- 16 Q. Yes, and you think it was a police officer who brought
- 17 you up to Belfast and back again?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. At any time -- sorry. Just before we go on, there were
- 20 three of you altogether --
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. -- who were sent to the Good Shepherd --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- for the same reason, GSC16 and the third girl --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- whose name I did not catch.
- 2 A. GSC17.
- 3 O. GSC17.
- 4 A. She was already in there. She had been sent the week
- 5 before and then GSC16 and I went together.
- 6 Q. I understand that, but as far as you understand, you all
- 7 went -- you were all sent there for the same reason --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- because of what had happened?
- 10 A. We were all pals, yes.
- 11 Q. And were you essentially the same age, the three of you?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And when you got to the Good Shepherd in Derry, were
- there other girls there already --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- of broadly speaking the same age?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. You were three much younger, were you?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And --
- 21 A. They were all old, middle-aged, some in 20s, 30s, 40s,
- 22 maybe a few teenagers. It is very hard when you are
- young to say people's ages.
- 24 Q. Well, exactly.
- 25 A. Plus the nuns dressed us so old-fashioned that it did

- 1 make them look older.
- 2 Q. But you were there for some years altogether.
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. Were the other two girls, GSC16 and GSC17, there for the
- 5 same length in time?
- 6 A. GSC17 disappeared one day. I don't know how long she
- 7 had been there. It could have been one year, it could
- have been two years, but one day she was just gone.
- 9 Nobody told you anything --
- 10 Q. I see.
- 11 A. -- and you were not allowed to ask questions, but GSC16
- and I stayed right up until my brother took me to court
- in and got me out.
- 14 Q. During the years that you were there did other girls of
- a similar age to you when you came in come into the Good
- 16 Shepherd?
- 17 A. A few, one or two, not very many, but they were always
- 18 older than us.
- 19 Q. So during your time does that mean the three of you were
- 20 --
- 21 A. Always the youngest.
- 22 Q. -- always the youngest?
- 23 A. Always.
- 24 Q. Yes. Could you tell whether the other teenage girls who
- came in were 15 or 17 or would you not be able to say?

- 1 A. Yes, they would have been round that probably, in the
- 2 teens, yes.
- 3 O. I see.
- 4 A. They'd come and go, but you were never told anything.
- 5 So they would come and some of them would disappear.
- 6 Q. During the years that you were there did any social
- 7 worker ever come and see how you were getting on?
- 8 A. No, no, no. Never went near my family. They could have
- given my mother some help.
- 10 Q. No, but I meant coming to the Good Shepherd premises to
- 11 speak to you --
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. -- or enquire after you?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. No. You became quite close -- and I think we have to
- 16 correct this. It is not SR312 but SR312
- 17 SR312 I know it may not seem a big difference, but SR312
- 18 was not the Mother Superior of the entire complex.
- 19 A. No, no. She was just in charge of all the women.
- 20 Q. She was in charge of where you were.
- 21 A. They had a separate part where they had a Mother
- 22 Superior and the nuns.
- 23 Q. Exactly. That's the point the Sisters want to make.
- The reading during meal times, can you remember what
- 25 sort of things were read out?

- 1 A. Read out?
- 2 Q. Do you remember anybody reading?
- 3 A. Yes. They used to -- we all had to take turns at
- 4 reading in the refectory.
- 5 Q. And what sort of things were you given to read?
- 6 A. Mostly religious books --
- 7 Q. Yes.
- 8 A. -- or books like "Little Women", you know, that story --
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. -- and books like that --
- 11 Q. And --
- 12 A. -- and the saints.
- 13 Q. -- as I understand your recollections, at no time after
- 14 you went to Derry did you ever go to school?
- 15 A. I never went to school, never. I have never been taught
- 16 since I was 11 --
- 17 Q. And that was --
- 18 A. -- since I left junior school.
- 19 Q. In other words, you were taught up to the time you were
- sent into the Good Shepherd is what you are saying. Is
- 21 that right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But you helped SR312 with records and counting money and
- so on, did you?
- 25 A. Sorry?

- 1 Q. Did you help SR312 with record-keeping and that sort of
- 2 thing?
- 3 A. Yes. It wasn't heavy stuff. It was just simple, you
- 4 know, counting the money, putting it into the purses and
- 5 running about and doing stuff. Whatever she told me to
- 6 do I did it.
- 7 Q. And then there were typing classes once for a couple of
- 8 nights. Isn't that right?
- 9 A. I only went to two and then it seemed to have closed
- down.
- 11 Q. But when you were there, were you able to cope with --
- 12 A. No, we didn't --
- 13 Q. -- spelling and so forth?
- 14 A. We didn't do any cooking.
- 15 Q. No, no. Were you able to cope with the spelling when
- 16 you were at the typing classes?
- 17 A. Yes, yes. I was always good at English.
- 18 Q. I see. Thank you very much.
- 19 A. Thank you.
- 20 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HAI107. Can I just ask in
- 21 your statement you say that you saw the nuns do terrible
- things to the other women.
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. What sort of things are you talking about?
- 25 A. Well, I will just use one as an example. There was

- a woman there. God help her! She had no hair. All her
- hair had fell out. She had been with the nuns since
- more or less since she had been born, and SR312 for some
- 4 reason treated her very badly on a regular basis just in
- 5 a cruel manner. Do you know what I mean? She was left
- 6 out of -- we used to do like some little productions
- 7 like on a bit of a stage, HMS Pinafore, that sort of
- 8 thing, and she had a beautiful voice, this woman with no
- 9 hair, but she would never get included in anything.
- I used to watch all that and I used to feel so sorry for
- 11 her, but what could I do? I was -- you know, just her
- 12 general attitude towards this particular woman, you
- 13 know.
- 14 Q. The Sisters said they got the lady a wig because of her
- 15 ...
- 16 A. They got her?
- 17 Q. They got her a wig.
- 18 A. No, they didn't. She used to wear a turban.
- 19 Q. So you don't remember her having --
- 20 A. I met her after she -- after the convent closed I was
- 21 walking down the street in and she came walking
- towards me and she was wearing a wig then and I didn't
- recognise her. She approached me, because it had been
- 24 quite a few years.
- 25 Q. But when you remember her in the convent, you just

- 1 remember her wearing a turban?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay, and when you got into trouble, you know, and got
- 4 into the black book, what sort of things would you have
- 5 done that got you into trouble?
- 6 A. I don't know. I don't know. I can't remember really.
- Just probably silly things. I don't know honestly.
- 8 Q. Okay. So it was more just kind of misbehaving --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- rather than anything ...?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Can I just ask about puberty and being, you know, helped
- to prepare for puberty --
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- and sex education? Did you get that?
- 16 A. No sex education. No way. One Sunday -- all we got was
- religion morning, noon and night seven days a week and
- now I won't go to a Catholic Church.
- I was in mass one Sunday morning and I started my
- 20 monthlies, and I came out and I told this older woman,
- and all she did was she went and got me the things I had
- to wear, which were homemade things, and that was it.
- 23 Q. Okay, but nobody explained to you what --
- 24 A. No, nothing was said.
- 25 Q. Okay, and did anybody -- did the nuns or anybody talk to

- 1 you about why you had come into the convent --
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. -- or what had happened to you?
- 4 A. No, no, no. I remember one particular older woman, who
- 5 used to sit on the machine near me, she used to say
- 6 nasty things like to me, "Oh, there's more in their hair
- 7 than what a fine comb would take out". That sort of
- 8 remarks were said.
- 9 Q. About you?
- 10 A. About me.
- 11 Q. And would the nuns intervene when people were ...?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Because they talk about that they would sometimes
- separate women if there was bad feeling between them.
- 15 A. No. I never saw anything like that.
- 16 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HAI107.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 MR LANE: Do you think that the older women who were there
- 19 were contented with being there?
- 20 A. I think the women that were in there had been probably
- 21 from other institutions, other convents. I think most
- of them were orphans or the product of incest or
- something like that, but they were not normal people,
- not what you would call normal people. They hadn't been
- 25 brought up in a normal way and I was terrified that

- I was going to be left about there.
- 2 Q. Right. When the place closed, where did they move on
- 3 to? Do you know?
- 4 A. Well, because I had gone to and I used to only
- just come home when it suited me -- not home; I used to
- 6 come to see my mother -- I heard that the convent had
- 7 closed and that they had dispersed to different places.
- 8 Some had gone to other convents. That particular woman
- 9 with no hair, she ended up back with them and she died
- 10 there. They just dispersed. I don't know exactly,
- because, as I say, I just bumped into somebody who told
- me that the place had closed and these poor people were
- 13 probably sent off to Southern Ireland to different
- convents.
- 15 O. You mentioned --
- 16 A. I don't see how they could have coped outside.
- 17 Q. You mentioned the time that you ran away.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did any other people show similar signs of rebelling at
- 20 all --
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. -- or not putting up with it?
- 23 A. No, because even the younger ones that you say were
- there, the teenagers, they had come from other convents.
- So I don't think any of them came from what you would

- 1 call a home life.
- 2 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 CHAIRMAN: Well, HAI107, thank you very much indeed for
- 5 coming to speak to us, particularly since we know --
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. -- you have had to come some distance to do that, but
- 8 thank you very much.
- 9 A. Thank you.
- 10 (Witness withdrew)
- 11 CHAIRMAN: 2 o'clock.
- $12 \quad (1.05 \text{ pm})$
- 13 (Lunch break)
- $14 \quad (2.00 \text{ pm})$
- 15 WITNESS HIA7 (called)
- 16 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
- 17 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies
- and gentlemen. Our witness this afternoon is HIA7. She
- is "HIA7". HIA7 has already given evidence to the
- Inquiry on Module 1 on Day 11 back on 24th February
- 21 2014. She therefore does not wish -- need to be sworn,
- and HIA7 has spoken to the press. So she is quite
- content for her name to go into the public domain.
- 24 HIA7 has given a statement to the Inquiry, which can
- 25 be found at GSC029 to 036.

- There is a response from the Good Shepherd from SR49
- 2 at 256 to 264.
- 3 Health & Social Care response is at 087 to 099.
- 4 There is police material at 21009 to 21032 and there
- is Social Services' material at 15023 to 15049.
- Now, HIA7, you are now 51 and your personal details
- 7 are set out in the statement that is on the screen.
- 8 When you gave evidence on Day 11 of the Inquiry, you
- 9 told us about your time in Termonbacca Children's Home
- in Derry.
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. Paragraphs 26 to 30 of your witness statement speak
- about your time in Good Shepherd. You were there on
- occasions between the ages of 14 and 16. Isn't that
- 15 right?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Now the records show that, in fact -- we can have a look
- at these, in fact, at GSC3009. I know we were having
- a discussion about dates, but you will see here that
- 20 your date is birth is given there and then the date of
- 21 reference is 16/12/1976. The placing authority was
- from the cathedral and had
- asked you to be referred to Social Services.
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. The reason for referral is set out there, but then you

- 1 will see:
- 2 "21st January 1977. HIA7 went home today."
- 3 You then went back into the Good Shepherd on 2nd
- 4 November 1978, having been referred by Social Services,
- 5 and then on 22nd November:
- 6 "HIA7 transferred to Omagh through Social Services."
- 7 So in total it would appear that you were there for
- 8 a period of about eight weeks between those two years.
- 9 A. Well ...
- 10 Q. And SR49 spoke to police after you had spoken to police
- in August of 2014. She said that you hadn't been living
- 12 there for very long.
- 13 A. That's right.
- 14 Q. We know that when you spoke to the police, you thought
- 15 you had been there longer, but this is what the records
- are, in fact, showing us.
- 17 A. Uh-huh.
- 18 Q. You had -- we discussed this on the last occasion as
- well, HIA7, that you had been put into Good Shepherd at
- the request
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. I am not going to call up what you said on the last day,
- but the transcript of what you said can be found in our
- 24 papers. We looked on the last day at Social Services'
- 25 material dating from 22nd November 1978, which is at

Page 111 GSC098. That showed that there were difficulties in the 1 2 was having 3 what Social Services perceived to 4 5 Α. Yes. Q. You were put into the Good Shepherd at request and 6 7 brought you there. That's correct. 8 Α. 9 If we just go to your statement, please, at 10 paragraphs 26 and 27, which is at 034, you talk in paragraph 27 about having to 11 time that you went in. That was at the request of 12 13 I just wanted to confirm. You gave the name of there, but that was not someone associated 14 the 15 with the Good Shepherd Sisters. No. 16 Α. 17 Q. This was your 18 Α. That is correct. Q. Paragraph 27 you say: 19 20 "The Good Shepherd was just like being in gaol. You 21 needed a key to open each door." 22 A. Uh-huh.

- Q. You say: 23
- 24 "SR49 was very nice and she still resides at Good
- 25 Shepherd."

- 1 She got you working in the kitchen, as you didn't
- like the laundry, because all the girls were older than
- 3 you and some of them were bullies.
- 4 A. Uh-huh.
- 5 Q. Some of the girls told you that SR49 made positive
- 6 changes to Good Shepherd. I just wanted to explore
- 7 that, if we might, in a little more detail, HIA7,
- 8 because you did say a little bit more to police when you
- 9 spoke to them.
- If we look at 21031, this is part of the witness
- 11 statement that you provided by police. Just there you
- 12 will see in the second line it said:
- "I was in and out of Good Shepherd.
- taking me out and putting me back in."
- So your social worker and SR49 decided it would be
- 16 better for you and they sent
- 17 you to Coneywarren in Omagh. We know you went there in
- November '78.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. You say:
- "Compared to Good Shepherd, Coneywarren was like
- a holiday camp."
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. You thought you had actually gone on 3rd November, but
- it would appear that it was about three weeks after that

- 1 that you went.
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. You go on to talk about Coneywarren there. If we can
- just scroll down. I might have got the actual wrong
- 5 page for that, just about what you said to the police
- 6 about Good Shepherd. If you bear with me. I think it
- 7 was maybe the preceding page. Yes. If you can just
- 8 scroll on up a bit, please. Yes.
- 9 You say you thought it was run by the Sisters of
- Nazareth, but we know it was the Good Shepherd Sisters
- who ran the home that you went to in Derry. You said
- 12 you were the only one of your family went into the Good
- 13 Shepherd. You remember you were taken up through a side
- door into a room by a nun called SR49.
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. A social worker was present, but you don't remember who.
- "She was in charge of us all in the convent."
- 18 You worked in the kitchen and you enjoyed working
- 19 there.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You go on to say that the home was run like a prison.
- The doors were all locked and relocked when you'd went
- through and you couldn't get through a door without it
- 24 being unlocked.
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

- 1 Q. You had to be in bed by a certain time and you got very
- 2 little to eat.
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. You were the only child in Good Shepherd and all the
- 5 other people were adult women. It was a laundry and all
- the women worked in the laundry and everyone in Derry
- 7 used the laundry. You remember some of the women, who
- 8 you name, and you remember GSC6, who used to pick on
- 9 you, and
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. You don't remember any surnames, but two of them,
- 12 and , looked out for you.
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. She told you what things had been like before SR49 came
- 15 --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- and how much harder the regime had been. Is that
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. That's correct. That's right.
- 20 Q. They said it only changed when SR49 took over. There
- 21 was also another nun who you remember, who is dead. You
- remember that when you were in the convent, you went out
- 23 to school --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- which would have been that school that you'd been

- 1 going to.
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Then you go on to talk about leaving. So it was the --
- I got the page number wrong, but it was the page before
- 5 that --
- 6 A. Right.
- 7 Q. -- that we were talking about.
- 8 I just wanted to ask a little bit more about -- you
- 9 know, you say -- the Good Shepherd say all internal
- doors weren't locked in Good Shepherd, but that the
- 11 front door might have been locked at night. You were
- able to go out into the grounds. You were allowed to go
- into town on Saturday and back -- as long as you were
- back by 6 o'clock. It was the height of The Troubles.
- So they were keeping people safe by keeping them in the
- 16 convent.
- 17 A. Uh-huh.
- 18 Q. Can you -- were you yourself ever allowed to go out
- other than to go to school, HIA7?
- 20 A. Well, I recall being allowed to go to the town. One of
- 21 the ladies that was living in the convent would have
- 22 took -- would have took me up to the town and we would
- have -- she would have done a bit of shopping, and then
- there used to be a cafe at the bottom of Shipquay
- 25 Street, which I ended up working in -- it was my first

- job -- going in there for tea and scones -- you know,
- 2 pastry, and then back to the convent. So ...
- 3 Q. So you were able to go out in the company of one of the
- 4 older women?
- 5 A. One of the older women, yes.
- 6 Q. Going back to your statement at page 035, you talk about
- 7 the accommodation. You said it was made up of small
- 8 cubicles. Each cubicle had two beds and a door.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. You remember sharing with this lady GSC6, this small
- lady, when you first went in.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. You say:
- "She was terrible. She woke everyone up at
- 15 6 o'clock in the morning with a bell."
- 16 A. That's right.
- 17 Q. "We got dressed, washed, made our bed and went to mass."
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. "Then we went for breakfast, which wouldn't have been
- 20 very much",
- and afterwards you went to school, and you kept it
- secret that you were actually in the convent.
- 23 A. That's right.
- 24 Q. SR49, you described her I think in a previous paragraph
- as being very nice, and she would say that she remembers

- 1 you and she remembers you as happy-go-lucky and having
- 2 great spirit.
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. I know your social worker at 099 in his social work
- 5 record thought that you had a good relationship with
- 6 SR49 and you would say that was true?
- 7 A. That's true and I still would -- if I see SR49, I would
- 8 still -- SR49 would speak to myself and I would have
- 9 a conversation with her. In my eyes SR49 to me --
- I have always said this -- SR49, she shouldn't have been
- a nun. She should have been a mother, because she has
- that mother instinct, very kind, very open, very
- understanding. She was really the only -- excuse me --
- 14 at the time --
- 15 Q. Sorry, HIA7. Just take your time. Take your time. You
- were telling me that she was the one who got you
- 17 Your big complaint was that
- 18 was putting you into because
- 19 didn't -- Isn't that right?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. And it was SR49 who recognised that in your best
- interests you needed to be somewhere and
- it was she who made arrangements to get you into
- Coneywarren with the Social Services. Isn't that right,
- 25 HIA7?

- 1 A. That's right. That's right.
- 2 Q. You are very grateful to her for that.
- 3 A. Oh, aye, to this day.
- 4 Q. You also were telling -- in your statement you said that
- 5 you worked in the kitchen, because you told her that the
- 6 older girls were bullying you in the laundry and you
- 7 didn't like it there.
- 8 A. No, I didn't like it.
- 9 Q. She said, "You come and work with me in the kitchen and
- 10 you will be all right there". Isn't that right?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. You actually told -- you were telling me earlier that
- 13 you went to talk to her when you'd made up your mind
- that you were going to come and talk to the Inquiry
- about what your experience had been --
- 16 A. I did. I went.
- 17 Q. -- particularly in Termonbacca, and you discussed that
- 18 with her.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. She was and is a big influence on your life.
- 21 A. She is to this day. They wouldn't be sort of -- not
- every day, but time goes on. I don't stop thinking of
- SR49. I have a great respect for her, because she's
- 24 left not a bad mark --
- 25 Q. But a good mark on your --

- 1 A. -- a big mark on my life.
- 2 Q. You also -- she also has said about this girl called
- 3 GSC6 that the nuns would say that this person was very
- 4 bossy.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. She not only bossed the girls around but bossed the nuns
- 7 around too.
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. Even though they tried to change her ways without
- 10 success, they did try. I am not going to go through
- 11 SR49's statement, but at paragraph -- sorry -- at 261
- she talks about you going to school and then trying to
- create as normal a time as possible --
- 14 A. I did.
- 15 Q. -- for you.
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. Just about -- you were also telling me when we were
- 18 talking earlier about working in the kitchen and about
- 19 how kind even the other lady in the kitchen was to you.
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. When you washed your hair, she made you sit by the range
- to make sure it dried, so you wouldn't catch cold.
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. You talked in your statement here about:
- 25 "At the weekend when the laundry closed down, the

- women stayed in a big room which had a TV and would have
- just sat around and passed the day."
- 3 You are not actually complaining about that, HIA7,
- 4 are you?
- 5 A. No, because I knew it was okay, because SR49 was there.
- 6 Q. And your major complaint is that you felt that you were
- 7 too young to be put into Good Shepherd, because all of
- 8 the other people there were so much older than you.
- 9 A. Aye. To me then -- I was a teenager -- they were old
- 10 women. You know, they looked old women to me then.
- I was at that -- when I first went in, I was the only
- 12 teenager at that age.
- 13 Q. I just -- you were only in for a period of about eight
- 14 weeks in total.
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. You didn't go on holidays or day trips during that time.
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. That would have just been -- you were there during the
- winter when those things wouldn't have been happening.
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. Do you remember any of the older women going to typing
- classes or anything like that in ...?
- 23 A. No, no.
- 24 Q. Good Shepherd would say, yes, you were one of their
- 25 younger residents and they tried to accommodate that by

- 1 making sure you went to school and looking after you in
- 2 the kitchen and they tried to provide you with love and
- 3 stability. You certainly would say that they achieved
- 4 that for you.
- 5 A. Well, they definitely did.
- 6 Q. HIA7, that's all that I want to ask you about the time
- 7 that you spent with the Good Shepherd nuns, but is there
- 8 anything that I haven't said or you haven't had the
- 9 chance to say that you want to tell the Inquiry about?
- 10 A. No. Everything you have said, that's -- that's it.
- I just -- the only thing is I have the greatest admire
- 12 for SR49. That's it.
- 13 Q. Well, thank you very much, HIA7.
- 14 A. Thank you.
- 15 Q. There's nothing more that I want to ask you, but the
- 16 Panel may have some questions for you.
- 17 Questions from THE PANEL
- 18 CHAIRMAN: HIA7, can I just ask you again, so I am quite
- 19 clear in my own mind about this? It was
- 20 that you would go into the Good Shepherd --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- I understand.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And you've described how you were in and out a couple of
- 25 times.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Then once you did go in, you found it a very
- 3 institutionalised type of setting for a young girl of
- 4 your teenage years, but apart from that you had a very
- 5 good relationship with SR49, who was kind to you --
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. -- and saw the sort of attention that you required in
- 8 your particular circumstances.
- 9 A. She seemed -- SR49 seemed to understand more about me
- 10 than my own mother did.
- 11 Q. Yes. It was through her influence that you were able to
- then be moved to Coneywarren --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- where you have described in your statement you were
- 15 very happy --
- 16 A. Very, very much so.
- 17 Q. -- apart from one episode you mention about somebody
- 18 coming into your room --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- which fortunately doesn't seem to have developed into
- anything worse, but that was the only adverse memory you
- have of your time in Coneywarren.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Is that right?
- 25 A. That's correct.

- 1 Q. When you were in the Good Shepherd, were there other
- 2 girls of a similar age to you there or were they all
- 3 noticeably older?
- 4 A. Not at the start, not the first time I went there, but
- later on there were teenagers round my age there, but
- 6 that's when SR49 decided that for my -- for my
- 7 interests, for my benefit for me to be took away to
- 8 Omagh. So really I wasn't among them that long.
- 9 Q. Because you I think were just coming up to your 16th
- 10 birthday.
- 11 A. Exactly, because SR49 actually brought me -- they were
- called granny shoes, and I had said to her about the
- shoes I had seen, and she actually bought me those shoes
- for my birthday, and it was -- I was wearing them the
- day I was leaving to go to Coneywarren.
- 16 Q. And that was on or about your 16th birthday. Isn't that
- 17 right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. But the girls who were there, the teenage girls, were
- there many of them? I know it's difficult to be sure
- about people's ages, but did they seem to be not any
- older than you?
- 23 A. They were around the same age as me. Maybe one might
- have been a bit older than me, but there was about
- 25 three, maybe three or four, if my memory serves me

- 1 right, but, as I say, I was not there that long while
- 2 they were there.
- 3 Q. During the time you were there you said that you were
- 4 bullied by older girls. Are you talking about the
- 5 teenage girls or the older women?
- 6 A. One specific older woman.
- 7 Q. And you spoke to SR49 about that and she sorted that out
- 8 --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- by bringing you to work with her in the kitchens. Is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 13 Q. I see. So far as the other teenage girls were concerned
- during the short while you were there, were they working
- in the laundry or somewhere else?
- 16 A. Some of them were at the same school as myself and there
- was another girl. She worked in the laundry.
- 18 Q. So some were still going to school --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- and some were working in the laundry?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. Thank you very much.
- 23 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA7. Can I just ask: were
- you encouraged to do your homework when you were going
- 25 to school in the evenings? Was there any ...?

- 1 A. SR49 would ask had you any homework, and if you did, you
- were told to do it and you done it. She did encourage
- 3 you to do things for your own benefit, you know, not --
- and you weren't bullied into doing it. She didn't bully
- 5 you into doing anything. Everything was for your
- 6 benefit. She had -- she had a little room up where
- 7 the TV would have been and she had a -- every time I see
- 8 a -- it was like a wee foot cushion. At times I would
- 9 have went and she would shut me in and we had like
- 10 a
- 11 Q. Conversation.
- 12 A. -- conversation and she always, you know, would put you
- on the right path.
- 14 O. And took a good interest in you?
- 15 A. Yes, very, very good interest.
- 16 Q. Okay, and encouraged you to do your homework in order
- that you would do well?
- 18 A. Oh, aye. It was all for my benefit, for me to move on.
- 19 I think she realised from what was going on with the
- 20 she wanted the better for
- 21 me. It was always better for me, you know.
- 22 Q. That's great. In relation to bed times and stuff did
- 23 you have a different bedtime because you were younger?
- 24 A. No, no. There was -- everybody went to bed at the same
- 25 time.

- 1 Q. What time was that?
- 2 A. I would say around 9 o'clock.
- 3 Q. Okay. That's great. Thanks, HIA7.
- 4 MR LANE: You mentioned that you went out shopping with the
- 5 older resident --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- just now. I think you also went out to school as
- well.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. So where did -- what was the point of all the locking up
- and the prison like bit that you mentioned?
- 12 A. I don't know. It is just the way that they had it run,
- the way the place was run. You went to school. You
- 14 were trusted to go to school. You were trusted to come
- 15 back. I had that -- SR49 had that trust with me and
- I had the trust with her. So I went to school. I came
- 17 back. I abide by the rules that went on in the convent
- 18 at that time. So ...
- 19 Q. So was it the outer doors that got locked or all the
- doors inside, were they locked as well?
- 21 A. It would have been the main door would have been locked
- 22 I think.
- 23 O. Uh-huh.
- 24 A. You know, at that age you don't understand, you know.
- You are a teenager and your head's all over the place

- and, you know, for one minute you were at home and then
- the next minute you are ... So your head was just ...
- 3 Q. You were obviously trusted, but does it mean that other
- 4 people there perhaps weren't trusted in the same way?
- 5 A. I don't know. I can't answer that question. If other
- 6 people weren't, if other people were, I don't know.
- 7 I can't answer that question.
- 8 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.
- 9 A. You are welcome.
- 10 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA7, you will be glad to hear that's the
- last question we have for you.
- 12 A. Thank you.
- 13 Q. I am sorry we had to ask you to come back and speak to
- us again nearly -- just over two years after the last
- 15 time you were here.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. The reason for that really is that it is very difficult
- for us to cope with looking at a whole series of
- different places on the same day, because, as you can
- see, the type of detailed information we have about
- 21 everybody, but thank you for coming to speak to us
- again.
- 23 A. You are welcome.
- 24 Q. We are very grateful.
- 25 A. Thank you.

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                           (Witness withdrew)
     MS SMITH: Chairman, that then concludes today's evidence.
     CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, we will sit again at the usual time
 3
 4
         tomorrow.
     (2.30 pm)
 5
 6
        (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)
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