
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at
Banbridge Court House
Banbridge

on Thursday, 10th March 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 191)

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

1 Thursday, 10th March 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.50 am)

5 WITNESS HIA387 (called)

6 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

7 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
8 start can I just remind everyone, please, to ensure if
9 you have a mobile phone, it is on "Silent"/"Vibrate" or
10 switched off, and that no photography is permitted here
11 in the chamber or anywhere on the premises.

12 Good morning, Mr Aiken.

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

14 The first witness today is HIA387 then, now HIA387.

15 A. HIA387.

16 Q. She is "HIA387". HIA387 gave evidence to the Panel on
17 Day 92 of our public hearings, which was 9th February of
18 2015. Her evidence can be found at pages 58 to 100 of
19 the transcript and it is also available in the Good
20 Shepherd bundle at 23012 to 23054. When HIA387 was here
21 on the last occasion she took the oath and she
22 understands that she remains under oath this morning.
23 She confirmed she wanted to keep her anonymity. That
24 remains the position, and she formally adopted her
25 statement that she provided to the Inquiry and has

1 confirmed that's part of her evidence that she wishes to
2 put before the Inquiry this morning.

3 HIA387, on the last occasion you confirmed for me
4 that you were born on --

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. -- and are now aged 66.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You have a birthday coming up in only a short space of
9 time. We talked on the last occasion about your brother
10 and him being in care, as you were, in different
11 locations --

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. -- and also about your own family. You have told me
14 there are not any more than the grandchildren that
15 there were on the last occasion --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- when you were here.

18 A. No.

19 Q. You have travelled from England to speak to the Inquiry
20 today.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. We looked during Module 4 at your time in Nazareth
23 House, which was between November '53, when you were
24 four years of age, and the 1st July 1961, at least
25 according to the record, when you were 12. I am right

1 in saying, if I summarise it this way, apart from
2 a particular traumatic event that you recall in the Good
3 Shepherd, your time in Nazareth was much worse than your
4 time with the Good Shepherd Sisters.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. At the time you made your statement to the Inquiry your
7 recollection about your time in the various Good
8 Shepherd properties referred to two places, Belfast and
9 then either Derry or Newry, and you weren't sure which,
10 although you remember that second place being a much
11 more pleasant place.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I was explaining to you this morning that we can see
14 from the records -- if we look at 3047, please, we can
15 see the admission record that the Good Shepherd
16 congregation has provided the Inquiry with, which is
17 said to be taken from their Belfast register. I don't
18 know if it is possible for to us maximise that anymore
19 than we have. It makes it easier to read. Yes. Thank
20 you.

21 You can see that it records, HIA387 -- you and
22 I were looking at this earlier -- it records you coming
23 into the Good Shepherd on 9th June 1962. It records
24 an address that you have come from of
25 off the Crumlin Road. Do you remember that address?

1 A. No.

2 Q. It refers to your father being in Belfast and your
3 mother being in I was asking you could you
4 remember a period when you left Nazareth in July 1961
5 and where you were before June 1962 when you appeared to
6 come into the Good Shepherd. You have no recollection
7 of leaving Nazareth to live with anyone other than --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- moving to the Good Shepherd.

10 A. No.

11 Q. The reason I ask that question -- and I will show the
12 Panel -- if we can look, please, at SNB-4258, this is
13 the record of you coming into Nazareth and this first
14 page records your basic information. If we then move
15 through to the next page, please, 4259, we will see that
16 it seems to have been a priest at St. Patrick's who was
17 involved in your admission and then the date you are
18 said to have left Nazareth is 1st July 1961.

19 Now if we go back then to look at the register of
20 going into the Good Shepherd, so that I make clear what
21 I am saying, if we look at 3047, we can see that it is
22 not of 2nd or 1st July 1961. It is suggesting it was
23 9th June 1962, almost just over eleven months later.

24 HIA387, you showed me this morning a letter that you
25 got from the Catholic Family Welfare Society --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- that added a little more to the Nazareth admissions
3 record, which suggested that you had been released from
4 there on 1st July 1971 into the custody of your family.
5 You have no memory of that.

6 A. No.

7 Q. I have said to you that the record that I have just
8 shown the Panel does not appear to record that
9 information, and therefore we will take that up with the
10 Sisters of Nazareth to see why they were able in
11 a letter written to you to say that you had been
12 returned to your family for a period, but as far as you
13 are concerned your memory is that you left Nazareth on
14 foot of -- after you complained about being raped by
15 a priest there and being then placed into the Good
16 Shepherd.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. That's how you remember it.

19 A. That's how -- yes.

20 Q. From the admissions record if you went into the Good
21 Shepherd on 9th June 1962, you were 13 years of age, and
22 according to that record, and we can see this on the
23 right-hand side of the screen -- it is slightly hard to
24 make out -- you and I were looking at it earlier:

25 "Sent to Good Shepherd Convent, Derry", it is

1 recorded, "September '63".

2 So if that's correct, you were in the Good Shepherd
3 in Belfast for about fifteen months between the ages of
4 13 and 14, which would still be at that time compulsory
5 school age. You should have been going to school. I am
6 going to talk to you a little bit more about that,
7 because you don't remember going out to St. Monica's,
8 which is close by the Nazareth home and close by the
9 Good Shepherd in Belfast. You don't remember going out
10 there during your time in the Good Shepherd.

11 A. No. I would have loved to have gone out, because
12 I would have met all my old friends, and there's no way
13 I can remember recalling that.

14 Q. You did talk in your Inquiry statement about your -- in
15 your Nazareth section about being at St. Monica's
16 School.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So you definitely went to St. Monica's School.

19 A. I went, yes.

20 Q. But your belief is you didn't continue to go to school
21 after you went to the Good Shepherd.

22 A. No.

23 Q. But, in fairness, in your Inquiry statement you describe
24 being a bit older when you went to the Good Shepherd
25 than the record seems to suggest, which was you were 13.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The congregation, as I was explaining to you, have drawn
3 to the Panel's attention that they had to file various
4 records with the government to explain how many
5 children, how many teenagers over school age were in
6 their establishment. In March 1963, when you would have
7 been 13, turning 14, or 14, they had to file a set of
8 statistics with the government. I am just going to show
9 the statistics I was explaining to you earlier, if we
10 look at 5844, and what they show is that in March 1963
11 there were 40 girls under 18 living in the Good Shepherd
12 in Belfast. You can see that, HIA387, by looking at the
13 very bottom entry, number 20. You can see "Good
14 Shepherd in Belfast" and then right in the middle of the
15 document you have "Total number of children in the
16 home", and where the arrow is now pointing there is
17 "40". To the left of that you can see two numbers,
18 a "36" and a "4". What those numbers are telling us is
19 that, according to the Good Shepherd, who filed the
20 return, there were 36 of the 40 under 18s who were
21 between 15 and 18, over school age, and there were four
22 of them, four of the 40, who were between 11 and 14. So
23 they should be at school.

24 The congregation draw attention to, if we look at
25 5847, please, which is part of the same return, and

1 again if we look at number 20, so it is halfway down on
2 the page where the arrow is pointing at the moment, you
3 can see then in what is the sixth column over where the
4 arrow is just now it is said that "Those who are being
5 educated or employed in premises outside the home of
6 compulsory school age, at school full-time", so educated
7 outside of the Good Shepherd. All four of those who
8 were under 15 are said to be going out to school. What
9 the congregation is saying is you are going to be part
10 of that four, because you are under 15. You are 14 at
11 the time this return is put in.

12 I am getting a complicated way round of saying to
13 you they are suggesting the record implies that you were
14 going out to St. Monica's, because that would make
15 sense. That was the school you were going to and there
16 would be no reason to stop going there, but you don't
17 have any memory of that at all.

18 A. No. I can honestly never remember going out to school
19 when I was in the Good Shepherd, and I would have loved
20 that, because I would have met up with all my old
21 friends.

22 Q. Instead what you describe to the Inquiry in your
23 statement, HIA387, is that you worked in the laundry.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In paragraph 21 of your statement at 074 you explain, if

1 we scroll down, please, to 21, that it was -- you
2 remember the wash rooms and the press rooms. You were
3 explaining to me earlier about sneaking into
4 a particular part of the laundry and you wanted to use
5 a particular -- do you want to just explain to the Panel
6 what you remember trying to do when you ...?

7 A. Because I wanted to work with my friends in another
8 part, and I thought if I could learn how to do this big
9 thing, and you had to put your feet on and jump down.
10 I wasn't strong enough. So I could not do it. So
11 I~just had to go up to the other end and help to fold
12 the sheets and I had to iron pillowcases and hankies and
13 lots of small bits and pieces.

14 Q. I was asking you, HIA387, what the congregation has also
15 explained to the Inquiry is on the Belfast site they
16 also had a re-education centre where, because the home
17 had people who were -- girls who were over 18 as well as
18 girls who were under 18, and they ran evening classes
19 and potentially some classes during the day that taught
20 various skills and might have also included learning to
21 type and that type of thing. You don't remember any of
22 those classes.

23 A. No.

24 Q. I was explaining to you that the congregation have tried
25 to identify a nun, who obviously would have been older

1 than you at the time and therefore is now much older,
2 who could speak about that period in 1963, 1962 when you
3 are talking about the Good Shepherd and being in the
4 laundry.

5 Sister Ethna, on behalf of the congregation, has
6 filed a statement, which quotes from a Sister called
7 **SR 298** -- I presume you don't remember that
8 Sister -- who says that a 13-year-old, which is what you
9 would have been at the time, wouldn't have been allowed
10 to work in the laundry and, in fact, the type of
11 machinery that they would have had you wouldn't have
12 been fit to operate.

13 The question I was posing to you earlier, HIA387,
14 was is it possible that by the time you get to Newry,
15 which is your third place in the Good Shepherd -- you
16 are certainly by then 15 and you are there until you are
17 15 and a half, and the congregation and you both agree
18 that you worked in the laundry when you were there -- is
19 it possible that you are thinking about -- your memory
20 is ascribing to Belfast what you may have done in Newry?

21 A. No. All I remember is in all three of them having to
22 work in the laundry.

23 Q. So that's your memory of it.

24 A. That's my memory of it all.

25 Q. In paragraph 22 of your statement you talk about a very

1 traumatic incident, HIA387, where on an occasion you
2 climbed over a wall into the nuns' garden at the back of
3 the Good Shepherd where there was an orchard. You were
4 there confronted by a priest, who took you into the
5 church -- you were saying to me you are not sure whether
6 it was the sacristy or not -- but took you into the
7 church, and you had to drop the apples and then he raped
8 you.

9 A. That's correct, yes.

10 Q. You then explain in paragraph 23 that at mass the next
11 day you made a comment about the priest who had raped
12 you and that the nun you made it to then slapped you and
13 said you were a liar and said you shouldn't say those
14 evil things.

15 The consequence of that, in addition to being
16 slapped, was you were then put in what you say was the
17 worst part of the laundry, where you had to deal with
18 soiled clothes, and then within a week you were put out
19 and moved up to you weren't sure whether it was Derry or
20 Newry, and I am going to show you that it was Derry you
21 went to next.

22 So what you are saying to the Inquiry is you were
23 raped. You disclosed that you were raped to a nun in
24 the Good Shepherd congregation. That nun mistreated
25 you, having disclosed to her, by slapping you -- and is

1 that in the face you were --

2 A. A clip round the ear.

3 Q. -- and telling you off --

4 A. Well, yes.

5 Q. -- and then also placing you in a worse job, and then
6 moving you out to Derry, as it turns out.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's the sequence of events that you remember.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I was explaining to you that the Good Shepherd
11 congregation -- I am going to put a map on the screen
12 that hopefully will help at 5047. What the congregation
13 have said to the Inquiry, HIA387, as I was explaining to
14 you -- just turn that round, please -- is that there's
15 no-one in the congregation who can remember
16 an allegation ever being made of a priest raping a girl
17 and that being talked about amongst the nuns. So they
18 are saying those who are alive who have been asked to
19 comment on it are saying that they don't ever remember
20 hearing this.

21 Then they are saying a second thing, which is that
22 at the Good Shepherd premises there was no orchard, but
23 there was an orchard with a wall that children went over
24 at Nazareth House.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. They are posing the possibility that what you are
2 describing happening to you at Good Shepherd really
3 relates to Nazareth House, because that's where the
4 orchard was.

5 A. Well, when you explained this to me this morning, you
6 have to remember I was a child, and maybe that was the
7 case, but I know 100%, whether it happened in Nazareth
8 House or whether it happened in the Good Shepherd, that
9 happened. So you have now confused me to whether I was
10 explaining to a Good Shepherd nun what had happened to
11 me. I don't know now --

12 Q. Well, I am not --

13 A. -- but I know 100% sure that it did happen to me.

14 Q. I know, HIA387, that to be -- let me say to you I am not
15 trying to confuse you at all, but I am explaining why
16 the congregation have said to the Inquiry what they have
17 said. The reason for that is because they take they say
18 what you have said very seriously, that what you
19 describe happening to you is a very serious thing, and
20 they would have wanted it dealt with properly if it was
21 something that happened on their premises. Therefore it
22 is important whether it happened on their premises, if
23 that can be cleared up, but, as I understand what you
24 are saying, HIA387, you are clear about the event
25 happening.

1 A. Happening, yes.

2 Q. That a priest did this to you.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You can understand the point I am making to you about
5 the orchard, and therefore if it happened in the
6 Nazareth property or the Good Shepherd property, you are
7 not certain about that, but what you are certain about
8 is that it happened.

9 A. Happened, yes.

10 Q. Does that help?

11 A. Yes, I suppose it does make sense, but you have to also
12 remember I was only a child in all of it, and there are
13 certain things I remember, there's certain things
14 I don't, but I do remember the bad things that happened
15 and my life to me -- I lost a child to it and I didn't
16 have a life. Sorry.

17 Q. It's perfectly okay. You take your time and we will get
18 through it. I said to you I will summarise it for you
19 and we will try and make sure you get through what you
20 want to say.

21 So if we have covered that --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- issue, then you move to Derry on 30th September 1963.

24 Now at that point you are 14. If we look at 3048,
25 please. So we have looked at the Belfast admission

1 register, which is showing you leaving in September '63,
2 and unfortunately the congregation have no documents
3 that explain the reasons for that, although they have
4 provided a statement that gives various reasons why
5 someone might be moved, which include not getting on
6 with particular staff or they were out of control and it
7 was felt a smaller place might be better for them,
8 a whole series of different reasons, but there is nobody
9 who can explain to the Inquiry why you moved to Derry.

10 But what's on the screen now -- and if we can
11 maximise the entry for HIA387, please -- you and
12 I looked at this entry earlier, HIA387 -- this is the
13 Derry register, and what it shows, again it records the
14 address of in Belfast. You have
15 explained you don't have a memory of that.

16 A. No.

17 Q. It records then on the right-hand side:

18 "Sent from our convent Belfast September 30th,
19 1963."

20 You don't have a clear memory of life in the convent
21 in Derry. I am right in saying that.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. It is more Newry you remember.

24 A. Yes. All I remember about Derry was it was very, very
25 dark and dingy and just working in the laundry. That's

1 all.

2 Q. That's the memory you have. I was saying to you I was
3 trying to understand how you might have ended up in
4 Newry. I am going to draw attention to the last
5 handwritten line on the right-hand side of the page that
6 we can see:

7 "Ran away to Belfast 1st March 1964."

8 Now on 1st March 1964 you would still have been 14.
9 You would have been in Derry for six months at that
10 point. I was asking you had you any memory of having
11 moved -- having ran away back to Belfast and you were
12 saying to me you didn't have a memory of that.

13 It appears, if we then look at the "Good Shepherd,
14 Newry" entry, if we look at 3049, please -- so that's
15 you running away, according to this, on 1st March 1964,
16 and if we look at the entry from the Newry register, we
17 can see you arriving in Newry on 2nd March 1964, and
18 according to this record you are in the Newry Good
19 Shepherd Convent for six months. I say "Convent";
20 I mean the St. Mary's accommodation, where you would
21 have lived with the older ladies and whatever other
22 younger teenagers were there. You are there for six
23 months from just before you turn 15 until you are 15 and
24 a half. The admission record that we can see on the
25 screen, HIA387, refers to you going --

1 "Went to Mater Hospital, Belfast."

2 Now in your statement to the Inquiry your
3 recollection was that you had left on a train --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and then were sleeping rough in East Belfast --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- but when you were talking to me earlier, you could
8 remember working in the Mater Hospital.

9 A. Yes, I can vaguely remember. Friends -- friends used to
10 look after me, and then I was -- then apparently was in
11 a hostel. For the life of me I cannot remember even
12 being in that.

13 Q. As I was discussing it with you, you were remembering
14 about the Mater Hospital and then a hostel that --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- you and other girls would have stayed at.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. If we look, please, at 1151, I was explaining to you
19 that Sister Ethna, who is the Irish Superior of the
20 congregation, she was not in Newry at the time you were
21 there. If we just scroll down to 10. -- so 10.3 and
22 10.4 and 10.5 are on the screen. Thank you. She spoke
23 to a Sister **SR 299**, who worked in Newry between 1955
24 and 1974 and worked in the packing room of the laundry
25 there. She could recall you. You were saying to me,

1 "How did she remember me out of thousands of girls?"
2 I said to you, "I can't answer that". There were
3 a small number of teenagers in Newry it seems and it was
4 a smaller number of people living there in total, but
5 what she says she remembers is you leaving abruptly
6 after having a major row, if I describe it in that way,
7 with a girl called in the packing room, and it was
8 a heated and -- what she describes, a heated and bitter
9 argument, which was unusual, and as a result of that you
10 were -- you asked to leave and you were driven away from
11 the home that evening at your request.

12 You were saying to me you may well have been a holy
13 terror growing up, but you don't have any memory of --

14 A. She might have driven me to the station, but I do
15 remember being on the train going back into Belfast.

16 Q. But you don't remember the girl called

17 A. No, no, don't remember any -- don't even remember a nun
18 called **SR 299** .

19 Q. You don't remember a heated argument taking place --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- and matters of that sort. If we just scroll down on
22 to the next page, please, the other point I was
23 discussing with you is that Sister **SR 299** ' recollection
24 is that you subsequently visited the Good Shepherd in
25 Newry after you had left. I was asking you had you any

1 memory of doing that and you were explaining to me why
2 would you go back to somewhere you didn't like.

3 A. Yes. I can't remember. I wouldn't have gone back to
4 somewhere that I hated.

5 Q. On the last occasion, HIA387, we dealt with at the end
6 of the Panel's work it has to decide what
7 recommendations they might make to the Northern Ireland
8 Government, and you expressed your views about that on
9 the last occasion. So I am not going to ask you
10 anything more about that now.

11 The last question I ask each witness is whether
12 there's anything else -- we are looking at the Good
13 Shepherd institutions which were in Belfast and Derry
14 and Newry -- whether there is anything else about your
15 time there that maybe I have not summarised accurately,
16 or something else you want to draw to the Panel's
17 attention about your time in the Good Shepherd that
18 perhaps I have not mentioned. Now is your time to do
19 that if there's anything else you want to add.

20 A. I honestly can't remember going out to school. I always
21 remember working in the laundry rooms and working and
22 cleaning, and I can honestly -- if I had -- if I had
23 been allowed to go back to St. Monica's, I would have
24 loved that, because I would have been back with all my
25 old friends in Nazareth House, but I certainly didn't go

1 back to St. Monica's that I can remember.

2 Q. HIA387, I am not going to ask you any more questions.

3 A. Thank God for that!

4 Q. If you remain where you are for a short time, the Panel
5 Members may want to ask you something.

6 A. Right.

7 Questions from THE PANEL

8 CHAIRMAN: HIA387, just to follow up what you have been
9 saying about St. Monica's, just for the benefit of those
10 who perhaps don't know this, that was a school not very
11 far away down the Ravenhill Road. Isn't that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. We know from what we have heard in other parts of the
14 Inquiry that the Sisters of Nazareth had a big complex
15 of buildings on the opposite side of the road to the big
16 complex of buildings where you were in the Good
17 Shepherd. Isn't that right?

18 A. I don't know that.

19 Q. Broadly speaking anyway?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So the point they are making is it would only have been
22 another few yards on the journey for you to go down to
23 St. Monica's from the Good Shepherd, but you have no
24 recollection of that?

25 A. No. I hear what you --

1 Q. You've explained why you would remember if you did go.

2 A. I hear what you are saying, but I honestly can't
3 remember going, and I would have sooner gone out than to
4 be working in a laundry room.

5 Q. Then if I can take you to the time you spent in Derry,
6 which was, roughly speaking, I suppose about six months,
7 your recollection of that is only working in the laundry
8 there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You describe it as rather dark and dingy.

11 A. Dark and dingy, yes.

12 Q. You have no recollection of running away from there.

13 A. No.

14 Q. Then you go on to Newry, but when you are in Derry for
15 the six months, you are still only 14 and a half and
16 then you come up to 15. Isn't that right?

17 A. Correct, yes.

18 Q. So you should be in secondary school at that time. Then
19 when you get to Newry, you are just a few days short --
20 a week or two short of your 15th birthday, and you are
21 there for I suppose about 18 months really, is it? No.
22 Six months. Again your recollection is working in the
23 laundry each time?

24 A. Yes, but the -- in Newry the nuns weren't -- they never
25 hit you or anything. Yes, they used to shout at you,

1 but they were a lot kinder.

2 Q. It may not be easy for you to remember this at all, but
3 in any of the three Good Shepherd places where you were
4 do you remember other girls who were close to you or of
5 the same age as you as opposed to older teenage girls?

6 A. The only -- the only person I remember in Newry was
7 a girl called . I can't remember her last name, but
8 she came from . I wasn't sure whether her name
9 was or whether she came from , and
10 she used to say to run away with her, because her mum
11 would look after us, but I didn't want, you know, and
12 that was all -- I don't know what her last name was.
13 I can't remember that.

14 Q. But do we gather from what you are saying she was in
15 around the same age as you were; she wasn't an older
16 girl?

17 A. I would assume so.

18 Q. Yes. In each of the three places where you were working
19 in the laundry were the majority, perhaps the great
20 majority, of the ladies who were working there, were
21 they all a good deal older?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Well into adulthood --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and perhaps well on in life?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

3 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA387. Can I just clarify something?

4 When you say in Newry the nuns never hit you, were you

5 comparing them to the nuns in the Good Shepherd in

6 Belfast --

7 A. Yes, and Nazareth.

8 Q. -- or Nazareth?

9 A. Both of them.

10 Q. So you are saying that in Belfast --

11 A. They often used to give you a clip round the ear.

12 Q. Was that for particular incidents or for -- you know,

13 why would they have done that?

14 A. Probably because I wasn't doing my job; I was in the

15 wrong place. I don't know.

16 Q. Okay, but that would be a regular thing?

17 A. Well, more or less, yes.

18 Q. Okay. Can I ask do you remember any recreation time in

19 any of the Good Shepherd Convents? Do you remember

20 times when you weren't working?

21 A. In Belfast they had a big court... -- courtyard and that

22 had a wall round it, and I used to go out there

23 sometimes for half an hour or something like that.

24 Q. And just mix with the other girls?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And the weekends, the laundries used to be closed at the
2 weekend. Do you remember?

3 A. I can't remember that.

4 Q. Can't remember. In relation to the -- do you remember
5 receiving any pocket money or pay?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You don't remember?

8 A. Nothing. I got nothing.

9 Q. Okay. Thanks, HIA387.

10 MR LANE: You described the Belfast Good Shepherd as being
11 like a prison.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I was just wondering whether you could expand on that
14 a bit. Do you mean you were actually locked into rooms
15 or it was just it felt like that?

16 A. Well, you were always locked into -- like the doors were
17 locked and you weren't allowed to go beyond certain
18 places. The only place was in Newry, where it was more
19 open and there was all fields round and gardens, but the
20 other places were sort of doors were always locked. You
21 weren't allowed to go beyond.

22 Q. So if you were moving shall we say from where you had
23 had your breakfast and things like this to the laundry,
24 would you have been escorted from one place to the
25 other?

1 A. Well, I can't remember that.

2 Q. No. Right, but the outer doors would have been locked
3 all the way round, would they?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. No. That's all. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN: HIA387, that's the last question we have to ask
7 you. Thank you very much for coming again to speak to
8 us, particularly since you have come a long way from
9 England to do that today, but, as I hope we explained on
10 the last occasion, we have had to ask people to come
11 back when they describe being in different institutions
12 we are looking at because it is simply too difficult for
13 us to keep them separate if everybody is talking about
14 different places on the same day, but I think I can tell
15 you pretty sure now that that's the last time we will be
16 asking you to come back.

17 A. Thank God for that!

18 Q. Thank you very much for coming to speak to us today.

19 A. Thank you.

20 (Witness withdrew)

21 MR AIKEN: Chairman, I have one more matter to deal with,
22 but I would be grateful if we could take a short time to
23 allow me to ...

24 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will rise for a few minutes now.

25 (11.40 am)

1 (Short break)

2 (12.35 pm)

3 Evidence of HIA377 summarised by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

4 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

5 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next matter
6 that I am going to deal with is the evidence of HIA377
7 (now HIA377), who is "HIA377", and I am working on the
8 basis that she will want to preserve her anonymity as
9 well, but she -- her husband, [surname redacted],
10 is in attendance to hear her evidence being summarised,
11 and I have had the opportunity to speak to him about
12 that and explain the Inquiry process that I would have
13 been explaining to HIA377. As the Panel is aware,
14 HIA377 is unfortunately terminally ill with cancer and
15 therefore isn't in a position to attend herself.

16 Her witness statement the Panel have already had the
17 opportunity to read, and that can be found -- if we
18 bring it up on the screen, please -- at 080 and it runs
19 from 080 to 086. It will obviously be redacted as and
20 when it appears on the Inquiry's website so that no-one
21 can identify HIA377 from it.

22 In addition to HIA377's statement the Panel have
23 a statement from Sister **SR 282**,
24 herself too ill to attend. That can be found at GSC1131
25 to 1143.

1 The Health & Social Care Board response statement is
2 at 1153 to 1155, with exhibits that run then from 1156
3 to 1160, but I am aware from discussions I have had
4 overnight that further work is going to be done in
5 respect of trying to understand what interaction there
6 was between the Tyrone County Welfare Authority, who
7 brought HIA377 to the Good Shepherd in Belfast in April
8 1963 at the age of 15, because her date of birth was
9 . So she was 15 years and month when
10 she moved to the Good Shepherd, and is now 68.

11 I was showing , as I would have his wife, the
12 record that is available from the Good Shepherd is at
13 3054. If we can look at that, please, from the Belfast
14 register that was maintained we can see the personal
15 details of HIA377 and recording her being brought by
16 Omagh Welfare, which I take to be Tyrone County Welfare
17 Authority, by a . The date of that is
18 7th April 1963.

19 If we move on to the next page, please, we can see
20 that background information was recorded -- that's 055,
21 please -- as to HIA377's circumstances. You can see the
22 very unfortunate circumstances in terms of her family
23 background, that she had -- her mother had passed away,
24 her father had married again, the stepmother died and
25 then her father died, and HIA377's brother had

1 endeavoured to get the various children in the family
2 placed with different relatives. There were ten
3 siblings amongst the family. HIA377 was placed with
4 a particular member of the family outside
5 that was regarded as not a satisfactory arrangement and
6 therefore it appears Tyrone County Welfare authority,
7 , brought her to the Good Shepherd in
8 Belfast. She remained there for three years until April
9 1966, when at the age of 18 she moved to live with her
10 brother in

11 The Panel have already during the opening heard me
12 outline what from the materials that's available can be
13 said about what life was like in St. Mary's complex in
14 Belfast between 1963 and 1966. The Panel is aware there
15 would have been potentially 100 ladies, including some
16 teenagers, living and working, and also based on what
17 the congregation have said being -- having recreational
18 opportunities and being educated, some of them at least,
19 on the site. There were, for instance, in 1963 some
20 I think potentially about 25 girls who were under 18
21 living in the complex and it is around that number that
22 was the case between '63 and 66, whenever HIA377 would
23 have been residing there. Having left, she since
24 married and had children of her own.

25 The Sister-in-Charge in St. Mary's the congregation

1 have confirmed was a Sister called Sister **SR 285**
2 between 1963 and 1966. In fact, that is -- HIA377 in
3 her statement refers to a Sister **SR 285** in paragraph 7,
4 if we go back to her statement, please, at 081, and
5 I have explained to that, as I would if HIA377 had
6 been here -- I would have explained to her what the
7 congregation have had to say to the Inquiry in response
8 to a number of matters that she discusses.

9 You will see that HIA377's recollection of coming up
10 at 15 was that there were bars on the windows of the
11 buildings in the complex, and the congregation have
12 explained to the Inquiry that that's incorrect,
13 a mistake of recollection. There just were not bars on
14 the windows, and the reference for that is at 1132 and
15 paragraph 14.

16 In paragraph 7 of the statement HIA377 talks about
17 Sister **SR 285** and her meeting with her and being
18 encouraged not to be upset. Might be upset from time to
19 time, which would be expected, but that they both felt,
20 and Sister **SR 285**, that HIA377 would be
21 happy there.

22 The congregation have explained that Sister **SR 285**
23 was herself a qualified nurse. She died on
24 . So obviously it is not possible to speak
25 to her about what is being said.

1 HIA377 makes reference to Sister **SR 285** saying that
2 she was not allowed out of the convent but that her
3 brothers could visit. In relation to visiting it is
4 clear from what HIA377 says herself that visits did take
5 place. If we look at paragraph 25 of her statement,
6 please, at 084, you can see HIA377 describing her older
7 brothers coming to visit her every week and they would
8 bring her personal items and also then they would bring
9 her grandmother to see her. She recalls having various
10 older photographs of them.

11 Then you will see in paragraph 26 that HIA377
12 describes eventually her brothers were allowed to take
13 her out from the convent and would do that for a few
14 hours on a Saturday.

15 You may consider that's in keeping with the
16 congregation explaining to the Inquiry that they were
17 aware of and endeavoured to ensure that there was the
18 opportunity for family contact. That was something that
19 was fostered rather than something that was discouraged.

20 In paragraph 9 of HIA377's statement, if we go back
21 to 081, please, HIA377 talks about working in the
22 laundry.

23 "A few days later one of the nuns took [her] down to
24 the ironing, laundry and packing rooms."

25 She describes the ironing room as huge and looking

1 at the big machines in the laundry room.

2 "I was then told to help another girl fold the
3 sheets."

4 We can see in paragraph 13, if we scroll through,
5 please, that HIA377 explains that the work, she regarded
6 it as difficult and tiring. She mostly worked in the
7 ironing room. The fact is -- and I was discussing this
8 with earlier -- that when HIA377 comes to the -- I
9 said . My apologies. will forgive
10 me for that I hope. When HIA377 comes to the Good
11 Shepherd in Belfast, she is already beyond compulsory
12 school age. So what education was available in primary
13 and intermediate school would already have been had, as
14 it were.

15 The congregation have pointed out, as the Panel is
16 aware, to the fact that employment was difficult in the
17 era that we are talking about and therefore girls who
18 were beyond school age would have looked to gaining
19 employment in the type of work that was being carried
20 out as training in the Good Shepherd, including in that
21 type of domestic type work, with needlework classes and
22 so on.

23 But she describes in paragraph 15 an occasion of
24 staying up all night to get ironing to get robes for
25 a mass when a nun or priest had died.

1 Sister **SR 282** has said on behalf of the
2 congregation that she does not remember anyone ever
3 working in the laundry overnight to get something ready
4 in this way and disagrees with the description of the
5 work in the laundry, and makes the point that the nuns
6 were working alongside the ladies and older teenagers
7 who were working there.

8 Reference is made you can see in paragraph 15 to
9 a Sister **SR 314** in charge of the laundry and she was
10 very cross. The congregation have said that's not
11 their recollection of Sister **SR 314**, who was a young
12 nun, and is now known by the name Sister **SR 314** .

13

14 Sister **SR 314** , we will look shortly at
15 a statement where she explains that she does remember
16 HIA377. HIA377 and her had a very good relationship
17 when she was in Belfast. They remain on good terms and
18 continue to be in contact with each other after all of
19 these years. She remembers her son, HIA377's son,
20 visiting her when passing through Limerick and
21 making the remark about how his mum wouldn't have
22 forgiven him if he hadn't called in.

23 Speaking to , has confirmed that all of
24 the family are very close to Sister **SR 314** , or
25 Sister **SR 314** , as she was. He did make the point to me

1 that doesn't mean she couldn't be cross, but they did
2 have and do have a very strong relationship with her.
3 He expressed the view to me, which I draw to the Panel's
4 attention, that HIA377 would say Sister **SR 314** was the
5 one nun she felt really seemed to care about her.

6 was able to say to me that Sister **SR 314**
7 ran a children's home in Limerick and his view,
8 such as it was, which he will not take any disrespect
9 from me saying he expressed the view she done that
10 really well, but obviously that's his view that he is
11 expressing.

12 So the position is that as it turns out when we have
13 looked into it a little bit and been able to hear from
14 Sister **SR 314**, and a statement will be filed from her
15 shortly confirming what I have just said to you, and
16 then speaking to on HIA377's behalf, they are on
17 all fours, as it were, that this was a nun who was very
18 caring, that had a good relationship and has continued
19 to have a good relationship with HIA377.

20 Sister **SR 314** has explained that got in
21 touch with her to make her aware about her illness, and
22 Sister **SR 314** -- and I've explained this to --
23 has expressed the view that she is extremely sad that
24 HIA377 is so unwell and they have continued to be in
25 contact with each other since that became known.

1 HIA377 refers in paragraph 26 of her statement at
2 084 to not being paid for the work. Obviously the
3 congregation have drawn attention -- I was discussing
4 this with -- they were effectively providing bed
5 and board and pocket money, although he was saying to me
6 that HIA377 doesn't recall having pocket money, but
7 that's what the congregation have described is the case.

8 In paragraph 10 at 082 HIA377 talks about the use of
9 her surname and surnames being used in the Good Shepherd
10 rather than christian names. I was explaining to
11 that Sister **SR 282** on behalf of the congregation has
12 said that's a mistaken belief, that, if anything, they
13 used first names, not surnames, and, in fact, they have
14 confirmed that policy of at least up to a certain point
15 in time changing the first name of an individual in
16 order to protect their privacy, but Sister **SR 282** has
17 said she wasn't aware of anyone being referred to by
18 their surname.

19 In paragraphs 11 and 12 HIA377 talks about the food.
20 If I summarise it this way, expresses the view the food
21 was poor, and, as I have drawn to the Panel's attention
22 previously, the congregation saw the provision of food
23 as a central part of their ministry and mission. Those
24 who are able to talk about eating the food and being at
25 the same time as an individual, who has a different

1 view, expresses the view the food was a decent standard
2 with good quality ingredients. Obviously to some extent
3 we are talking about something that's a subjective
4 issue.

5 In paragraph 16 of HIA377's statement, if we look at
6 paragraph 16 and then 17, HIA377 talks about being
7 slapped by nuns on two or three occasions. So that's
8 the first part of what she says. The second part is
9 that she says she hit them back; that they would have
10 slapped her across the face, and one particular nun gave
11 her a right whacking once on the hands with her ruler.
12 So that's two different forms of physical assaults she
13 is describing, but she says:

14 "I hit her back, and I told her, 'I'm not here for
15 you to hit me'. I could do that because I had
16 a family."

17 Then in paragraph 17 HIA377 says that she witnessed
18 other girls who were there being slapped and viewed them
19 as being slapped harder than she was and also that they
20 would have had the hair pulled out of them. She wasn't
21 aware of them hitting the nuns back.

22 Now the Panel is already aware the congregation have
23 set out its position about corporal punishment, that it
24 was not part of life in the Good Shepherd, and in
25 addition Sister **SR 282** has said to the Inquiry that

1 during her time in Belfast there was a long established
2 policy of no hitting, that violent behaviour wouldn't
3 and didn't occur and wouldn't have been tolerated, had
4 it occurred. The reference for that is at 1135.

5 Sister **SR 314** , who was Sister **SR 314** that I have
6 referred you to, the same surname as HIA377, Sister
7 **SR 314** , has said she has no recollection of
8 Sisters slapping or behaving harshly in Belfast and
9 recalls it as a homely atmosphere where that type of
10 thing did not occur.

11 So the congregation take issue with the allegations
12 that HIA377 makes about the physical violence that she
13 is describing.

14 We mentioned education, and in paragraph 18 HIA377
15 expresses the view that the nuns did not care for her
16 education. I was discussing that with and
17 explaining that HIA377 went in after compulsory school
18 age, but in any event the congregation have said that
19 education was something that was important to them.
20 I~am not going to go into the detail of that, but you
21 will be aware from 1136, paragraph 31, Sister **SR 282**
22 describes the emphasis on education and the re-education
23 centre that was available and the fact that there are
24 government records that indicate there were nuns as well
25 as lay staff involved in a teaching capacity.

1 about particular incidents involving two different women
2 who worked in the and being propositioned
3 by those women. She expresses the view as to how she
4 dealt with that at the time, and Sister **SR 282** on
5 behalf of the congregation has said that she never heard
6 anything like this before reading HIA377's statement.
7 There is nothing in HIA377's statement to suggest that
8 she ever told anyone about this, and Sister **SR 282**
9 has confirmed the ladies who worked in the ,
10 it was a separate area from where HIA377 would have
11 been. There was no reason for her to be there, and
12 those ladies are in any event deceased.

13 In paragraph 27 of HIA377's statement she talks
14 about then the coming -- she left in April 1966 and went
15 to live with her brother in .

16 In paragraph 35 HIA377 explains why she wanted to
17 come to the Inquiry and tell her story: to make sure the
18 same mistakes don't happen again.

19 The Inquiry Panel is aware the Health & Social Care
20 Board have filed records that indicate the type of
21 difficulties that HIA377 describes herself having and
22 the medical difficulties that flowed from that and they
23 are available exhibited to the Health & Social Care
24 Board statement.

25 I can see that one of the records refers to HIA377

1 being in the Good Shepherd in Londonderry and that's
2 clearly not correct. That's at 1160, where a history is
3 being taken from HIA377. Clearly she was not there, but
4 was otherwise in the Good Shepherd in Belfast.

5 So in very unfortunate circumstances has
6 attended to hear the summary being given, and we have
7 asked him to let the Inquiry know how HIA377 is getting
8 on. He said he will do that.

9 Unless there is anything further I can assist with,
10 that's what I propose to say about the evidence of
11 HIA377 before the Inquiry.

12 CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't think there is anything further we
13 need to have clarified.

14 We will adjourn now and resume tomorrow at the usual
15 time.

16 (12.55 pm)

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

18 --ooOoo--

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