

1 Friday, 11th March 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA202 (called)

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

10 Good morning, Ms Smith.

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA202. HIA202
13 is "HIA200" -- "202". Sorry. She wishes to affirm and
14 she also wishes to maintain her anonymity.

15 WITNESS HIA202 (affirmed)

16 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down, HIA202.

17 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

18 MS SMITH: HIA202, as I explained to you, I am just going to
19 tell the Panel where there are some papers in our bundle
20 of documents relevant to your evidence.

21 HIA202's statement can be found at GSC052 to 057.

22 There are three statements of response from the Good
23 Shepherd. There is a statement from SR49 at 361 to 366,

24 from SR294 SR294

25 SR294 , which is at 367 to 370, and

1 from SR281 who was SR281 That's at 371
2 to 376.

3 There is also a response statement from the Health &
4 Social Care Board at 248 to 249, which indicates that
5 there was no Social Services' involvement in HIA202's
6 care.

7 Now if HIA202's statement could be put on the
8 screen, please, at 052.

9 HIA202, as I explained to you, there are personal
10 details here that are blacked out on our screen from
11 your statement. Can you just ask you to have a look at
12 the document that's on the screen and confirm that
13 that's the statement that you prepared for the Inquiry?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you signed that statement I think on the last page,
16 which is at 057, on 15th January of this year.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, HIA202, you are now Is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And your personal details are set out in paragraph 1 of
21 your statement on page 052. I am not going to go into
22 those, but at paragraph 2 you talk about how you came to
23 be in the Good Shepherd in Newry. That was at the
24 suggestion of a priest, who told your mother to put you
25 in there for training. You don't really know why you

1 would -- you were put into the convent except that you
2 may have been talking to soldiers innocently and that
3 your mother may have worried because you were doing
4 that, but that's the only reason that you know that you
5 may have been placed there. Isn't that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Paragraph 3 of your statement you thought --

8 CHAIRMAN: May I just interrupt to ask, Ms Smith, do we know
9 the date on which HIA202 went into Newry?

10 MS SMITH: Yes. I was just coming to that, Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN: Okay.

12 MS SMITH: In paragraph 3, HIA202, you said that you thought
13 you were there from '72 to '73 approximately, but the
14 records show that, in fact, you went into Good Shepherd,
15 Newry on 6th August '73, which was the week before your
16 16th birthday. So while you say here that you were 15
17 when you went into Good Shepherd, Newry, that is true,
18 but you were almost 16.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You were there until the week -- sorry -- until
21 January 1974, when you went to Derry. We will come back
22 to that. None of the records that we have received from
23 The Good Shepherd or none of the statements actually can
24 tell us when you actually left Derry. We know that you
25 were about either just before your 18th birthday or

1 possibly 18, but you yourself aren't certain. Isn't
2 that right, HIA202?

3 A. Not sure, because, I mean, I could have been 17 and
4 a half or just before I was 18. I don't really know.

5 Q. Okay. Well, certainly just talking about your time in
6 Good Shepherd in Newry, you say that you were the
7 youngest and you name a couple of girls there who you
8 were friendly with who were a few years older than you.
9 You felt devastated when you first arrived and you were
10 very emotional. You couldn't stop crying for days. You
11 say no-one bothered with you.

12 "I felt abandoned and unloved by my family."

13 I am just wondering, HIA202, did anyone seek to
14 comfort you? I mean, was your distress evident? Did
15 anybody seek to offer you any comfort when you arrived
16 into the convent?

17 A. Well, some of the girls, like, you know, some of them.

18 Q. They tried to make you feel a bit better?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say you slept in the dormitory with other girls and
21 you describe the dormitories, and you say that GSC36 was
22 in charge of your dormitory. You describe her as a nice
23 nun.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then you describe the routine in Good Shepherd, Newry in

1 paragraph 5 here. You say you got up early in the
2 morning, went to mass at 7.00 am, afterwards had
3 breakfast, and you named the priest who came to say
4 mass.

5 "After breakfast we went to work in the laundry."

6 You didn't wear a uniform, just the same clothes
7 that you wore at home. You worked in all parts of the
8 laundry, including operating the large rollers, and the
9 other women who worked there showed you what to do.
10 There were a lot of old women working in the laundry.

11 Can I just pause there? When you say "old women",
12 they were older than you as a 16-year-old, but they may
13 not have been that old. Is that possible?

14 A. Some were like middle-aged and some were a lot older,
15 like, old ladies.

16 Q. And you think that they maybe had been with the Good
17 Shepherd nuns all their lives?

18 A. I'd say so.

19 Q. You say you just kept your head down, did your job and
20 don't remember getting paid for any work.

21 Now **SR281** has given a statement and at
22 paragraph 8 of her statement at 372 she describes what
23 she recalls of the routine in Newry. I don't think we
24 need to call that up, but just to highlight to the Panel
25 where that is in the documents.

1 Paragraph 6 you say that Newry was more relaxed than
2 the Good Shepherd in Derry, which you later went to, but
3 you don't remember being allowed out in Newry. You
4 learnt to play the guitar. You can't remember the name
5 of the girl who taught you. You say:

6 "The nuns were strict, and when we got to watch
7 television, the nuns would turn it off if there was
8 kissing."

9 The food was all right and you were never physically
10 abused in Newry.

11 SR281 in her statement has described Newry as
12 being a small place. There weren't that many people in
13 it in comparison with maybe some other Good Shepherd
14 homes. She said that there was a warm atmosphere, and
15 she said no-one was allowed out at night because of The
16 Troubles. There was a good tradition of music and the
17 nuns would have turned off the TV if there was any
18 kissing or such activity --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- on it. So she confirms that that would have been
21 done. She said that the nuns organised dances in the
22 home in Newry. Do you remember that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then in paragraph 7 you go on to talk about I know
25 something that is of particular difficulty for you,

1 HIA202. So you were working in the laundry and you
2 became friendly with the delivery driver, who would have
3 been about three years older than you. I am just going
4 to use his first name, which was . You got
5 friendly and he gave you a St. Christopher's medal. You
6 liked each other. You danced together at the Christmas
7 dance. You wore a long blue maxi dress, and he gave you
8 a quick peck on the cheek as you walked up the corridor.
9 You describe him as "a gentle soul". He told you he was
10 going to ask the nuns if he could take you out. You
11 believe he did ask a nun here, and I am going to use the
12 name, but we don't use names outside of the chamber, and
13 that was GSC35. Later you were told that he wanted to
14 see you -- that he wanted to see you in the parlour, and
15 you spoke to him, and he told you that the nuns wouldn't
16 let you see him. He then left and that was the last
17 time you ever saw him.

18 You remember then being in the dormitory when the
19 -- you were told she wanted to see you.
20 She told you that something terrible had happened and
21 she said that had died, and that was just in the
22 month after you'd danced with him at Christmas. The
23 nuns told you that he had had a heart attack, but you
24 don't know whether that was true or not. GSC36, who you
25 describe as a nice nun, told you that you shouldn't

1 blame yourself.

2 You were devastated at the news. You believe that
3 his intentions towards you were good and you feel that
4 the nuns were cruel in stopping you seeing him. You
5 always wondered how things might have been. The tragedy
6 of what happened to him has overshadowed your life and
7 you relive it every time you talk about it. It was
8 traumatic and you feel you will never get over it.

9 Certainly when you were talking to me earlier, it
10 was clear to me, HIA202, that you still feel very
11 emotional about this episode in your life.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When we were talking, you made the point to me that it
14 was a traumatic time. You at this stage were just 16.
15 You had been taken away from your family. This was
16 someone who had shown an interest and kindness in you
17 and you were prevented from being able to form
18 a relationship with him. That's --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- really the message that you want to get across, that
21 you felt at this time in your life that everyone was
22 against you and this was a very difficult --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- fact, that you weren't allowed to have this
25 relationship.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You go on in paragraph 9 to describe how so traumatised
3 by this were you that you ran away with two other girls.
4 They knew you were heartbroken and that you had to get
5 away. You went to Belfast and stayed with a friend of
6 one of the girls before making your way to Liverpool.
7 The two girls who were older than you were looking after
8 you.

9 The police found you in England and you were brought
10 back to the Good Shepherd and you were separated when
11 you got back. One of them stayed in the Good Shepherd
12 and you then were taken to the Good Shepherd in Derry.
13 You say you were terrified to go home to your family and
14 you told the nuns that. I just checked with you. You
15 were given the option of going back home, but you felt
16 your mother had abandoned you and you didn't want to go
17 home. Isn't that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So, as you say in your statement, your mother didn't
20 want you before. So you felt what was the point in
21 going home? You don't know why you were moved to Derry
22 from Newry. You can only assume it was because of the
23 fact you had run away to England.

24 We know that you arrived in Good Shepherd, Derry in
25 January of 1974. So it was all part and parcel of these

1 events. When died in January '74 and you running
2 away was all a short space of time. You go to Derry.
3 At that stage, 1974, you were still 16. So you had
4 been -- you were about 16 and a half when you arrived in
5 Derry, having been in Newry for about six months.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. There was a lot of older women there, and you say that
8 SR49 was mostly in charge. She was also a cook and she
9 made a lovely shepherd's pie. You also remember you
10 describe her as GSC18, but that would have been GSC18
11 was very strict. You slept in a dormitory just like
12 that in Newry and you worked in the laundry.

13 "There was a book which kept a record of pocket
14 money we received."

15 You don't remember that in Newry. You were allowed
16 out in Derry and you were allowed to go home for
17 a weekend a couple of times.

18 The nuns have said that girls were encouraged to go
19 into town and spend their pocket money at the weekend on
20 a Saturday in Derry. Do you remember doing that?

21 A. I think so. I am not too sure about that now. I think
22 so.

23 Q. One of the other things we heard about Derry is that the
24 girls went out to evening classes. Do you ever remember
25 that happening, or girls being taught typing or anything

1 like that?

2 A. I don't recall, no.

3 Q. They also said that at this time in Derry would have
4 been the height of The Troubles. So it wasn't safe for
5 people to go out, to be allowed out at night. I think
6 would you probably accept that, HIA202.

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. They also said that music was a big part of the convent.
9 When we were talking, you confirmed that that was true.
10 They also said that the Sisters and girls worked
11 together in the laundry. I was asking: would they have
12 done the same jobs? Would they have done the same work
13 in the laundry?

14 A. We did all the work, like, you know. We had to have
15 everything perfect to go out to the public. So we were
16 just doing what we were -- what the nuns expected of us,
17 like, you know.

18 Q. What jobs would the nuns have done in the laundry? Can
19 you remember?

20 A. Putting sheets into the washing machines. I worked in
21 the dry cleaners, you know, that machine that you press
22 men's trousers, and you had to have them perfect to go
23 out to the public, like, you know.

24 Q. Would the nuns have also done the work that you were
25 doing?

1 A. The nuns, yes. Some of the nuns, yes. Some of the
2 nuns, yes.

3 Q. You say that:

4 "The routine in Derry", here at paragraph 12, "was
5 similar to that in Newry. We got up, went to mass at
6 7.00 and after breakfast went to work in the laundry.
7 I felt like I was brainwashed in The Good Shepherd.
8 There was a regimented routine and I had to follow it.
9 It was like being in the army except with constant
10 religion forced on you. I was never allowed to think
11 for myself. I was made to work and I was only a child."

12 Mass wasn't compulsory. You didn't have to go every
13 day, did you?

14 A. It was just like -- it was just part of it, like, you
15 know. Like, you lived in the convent and you went to
16 mass and you did your work and that was the routine of
17 life.

18 Q. But you -- were there days where you could have said,
19 "Well, I am not going to mass this morning" and you
20 didn't have to go?

21 A. Well, sometimes if you didn't feel well enough to go,
22 you wouldn't go, like, you know, if you weren't well.

23 Q. You weren't expected to go?

24 A. Well, I don't know now. I just thought it was just --
25 it was the normality to go, like, you know, when you

1 were in there.

2 Q. You felt that you were expected to go, that it was part
3 of the routine?

4 A. Yes, it was all part of it.

5 Q. In paragraph 13 of your statement, if we could scroll on
6 down, please, you talk about one evening you walked up
7 to a house in the Creggan estate in Derry with another
8 girl without asking for permission. You think that
9 other girl might have been called .

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. When you came back, you say that SR49 slapped you across
12 the face and shouted at you in front of everyone. She
13 lost her temper and this was a one-off incident. You
14 say she had good points and bad points. You never saw
15 any other physical abuse while you were in Good
16 Shepherd.

17 Now I just want to ask you a little bit more about
18 this incident. You were telling me that you were in the
19 dormitory in bed when it happened.

20 A. Yes, I was in the dormitory in bed, and SR49 was just
21 mad and she just came over to me and just hit me, like,
22 you know. I remember going in the next morning to her.
23 I told her I hated her. I didn't feel the same towards
24 her after that, like, you know, but it think she done
25 it, like -- it was a split second. She didn't mean to

1 do it, like. It was just, like, I was bold and
2 I shouldn't have went up there and, like, it was just
3 like one of those things. I have nothing against the
4 nun or anything, like, you know. It's just one of those
5 moments.

6 Q. I think you described to me that she was so angry that
7 she just lost her cool with you.

8 A. Yes, she just lost her cool, like, you know. She
9 probably lost her cool because I shouldn't have went up
10 there, like, you know.

11 Q. You think maybe -- I think you said there was no malice
12 in it.

13 A. No, there was no malice in it.

14 Q. That it may be out of concern for you, that she was
15 cross that you had put yourself in danger. Do you think
16 is that why it happened?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. Well, in her statement to the Inquiry she addresses the
19 allegation that you make. I am not going to call it up,
20 but at paragraph 9 and 19, sub-paragraph (7) at GSC362
21 to 364 and at 365 she denies slapping you on this
22 occasion or at all. She accepts that she might have
23 shouted at you because you were putting yourself in
24 danger. This was Derry and it was the height of The
25 Troubles, but she denies that she slapped you in any

1 way, HIA202. What do you want to say to the Inquiry
2 about that?

3 A. Well, why would I make it up, like? To me it did
4 happen. Do you know?

5 Q. Certainly when I told you that she was denying it, you
6 were surprised --

7 A. Yes, I was surprised.

8 Q. -- that she was denying it.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. SR294 has also given a statement to the Inquiry,
11 and at paragraph 8 at 368 she says that she was
12 surprised and shocked by the allegation, because she
13 never saw SR49 strike anyone.

14 A. She wasn't there when it happened.

15 Q. There were other girls in the dormitory.

16 A. There was a girl that walked in with SR49, like.

17 Q. Another girl?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Well, they've said it is totally against her nature, but
20 you would except that this was a one-off.

21 A. It was out of character for her, like. That is true.

22 Q. You said that after a few years you told SR49 that you
23 wanted to leave and you said yourself, looking at these
24 older women, that you didn't want to stay there any
25 longer.

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. You are not going -- I think we may never get to the
3 bottom of it, and I have told you that I will ask the
4 representatives of the Good Shepherd if they can find
5 any other records that would give you the answer as to
6 when you actually left the convent, and if we can get
7 you that information, we certainly will, HIA202, but at
8 the moment we don't know when, but it certainly would
9 have been in or around your 18th birthday you think.

10 A. I think -- I don't know. It could have been, like, the
11 way I went in the week before my 16th birthday,
12 I~probably wanted to get out before my 18th birthday.
13 Do you know, like? I could have been, like, 17 and --
14 do you know?

15 Q. So --

16 A. I don't honestly know, to be honest.

17 Q. -- doing the best we can --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- you certainly went in --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- at 16 or just a week before your 16th birthday.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You thought you were there about two years.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It might have been eighteen months.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But in or around that between the two homes, six months
3 in Newry and then the rest of the time in Derry.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You describe in your statement at paragraphs 15 to 18
6 your life after care, HIA202. I am not going to go into
7 the details, but if we just look at paragraph 18 of
8 that, you said that:

9 "Being in the Good Shepherd had a devastating impact
10 on my life. I suffered emotional abuse. It messed me
11 up. I felt like I was in prison. I was cut off from the
12 real world and was treated as if I had done something
13 wrong. I should not have been put in there. My
14 siblings were devastated for me and some of them were
15 never told where I was."

16 You find it difficult to talk about your time in the
17 Good Shepherd.

18 Now that's all I wanted to ask you, HIA202, about
19 your time in the Good Shepherd, but is there anything
20 that isn't in your statement or that we haven't covered
21 here this morning that you want to tell the Inquiry,
22 anything more that you want to say about being in Good
23 Shepherd or anything more about what's in your
24 statement?

25 A. No. That's about it, like. That was my life at that

1 stage.

2 Q. Well, the only other question -- and we discussed this
3 earlier -- is about what this Inquiry should do at the
4 end of its work in terms of what recommendations it
5 might make to the Northern Ireland Executive. You
6 didn't have any real idea of what those recommendations
7 might be, save for the fact that you told me that you
8 felt that it affected everybody the same. Is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes. I think everybody has their own stories to tell,
11 like, you know, the ladies that were in there, and this
12 is my story, and I am sure each and every one of them
13 have their own stories.

14 Q. Well, is there anything more you want to say in terms of
15 recommendations that the Inquiry should make, either
16 a memorial, or an apology, or compensation, or any
17 suggestions that you might want to make?

18 A. That's up to the Inquiry, like, what way to deal with
19 it, like, you know.

20 Q. HIA202, thank you very much. You will be glad to know
21 I have nothing more that I want to ask you, but the
22 Panel Members may have some questions. So if you just
23 stay there for another while.

24 A. Thank you.

25

1 Questions from THE PANEL

2 CHAIRMAN: HIA202, can I just ask you one or two questions
3 more about your time in the Good Shepherd in Derry? You
4 said that when you worked in Newry, you didn't get any
5 money for it, but you got some pocket money in Derry.
6 Have you any idea how much money you would get each
7 week?

8 A. I honestly couldn't tell you. I do not know. It wasn't
9 much, like.

10 Q. You refer I think to --

11 A. Don't know.

12 Q. -- there being a book.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did the nuns have a book for each of you in the sense
15 that somebody would give you a book on Friday or
16 Saturday saying --

17 A. No, it was a big book, like. It was a book.

18 Q. They kept a sort of ledger, did they?

19 A. Yes, like a ...

20 Q. I see. I thought maybe it was a small book that each of
21 you had, but you just --

22 A. No. Never had a book. We never had a book ourselves.
23 No, no way.

24 Q. Does that mean that you would just be told, "This week
25 you are getting ...", whatever the amount was? You

1 think it was a small amount. Did somebody then give you
2 the money or did you -- could you save it up in some
3 way?

4 A. We usually got the money for toothpaste and toiletries
5 and that sort of thing.

6 Q. Yes, but if you wanted, like a young girl of your age,
7 to go out and buy some clothes, could you save your
8 money up for a few weeks, or what way did it work?

9 A. I don't recall, like, to be honest with you. All I know
10 is that it's like you're just going in and you got paid
11 your pocket money and ...

12 Q. Yes. When you say you bought things like toiletries,
13 did you go to a local shop near the convent to do that
14 or just wherever you wanted to go in the town?

15 A. No. It is wherever, like -- the other girls, like,
16 wherever -- there would be somebody there, like, to ...

17 Q. You mean you would ask another girl who is going out,
18 "Could you get me toothpaste?" or whatever?

19 A. There'd be -- there'd be some... -- yes. There would
20 be, like, someone to go to the shops, like.

21 Q. Yes. Now where you were living was on the Dungiven Road
22 in the Waterside.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If you went out of the convent at all, the convent
25 grounds, so to speak, did you normally just stay

1 somewhere in the Waterside area apart from the time you
2 went up to the Creggan?

3 A. I stayed in the Good Shepherd Convent, but that
4 incident, like, it was just pure innocence that I went
5 up there.

6 Q. Yes. I will come to that just in a moment, but does
7 that mean in the normal way it was your choice to stay
8 inside the grounds when you weren't actually working,
9 say on a Sunday afternoon or something like that?

10 A. I don't think we were allowed out, like, to go anywhere.

11 Q. Well, if you weren't allowed out, did you just --

12 A. We were just --

13 Q. I'm sorry. Did you just accept that or did somebody
14 say, you know, "The door is locked. You can't go out.
15 We are not letting you out"?

16 A. I think it was just the way of life. It was just the
17 way it was.

18 Q. I see. You perhaps didn't question it?

19 A. No, I never questioned it, the way I never questioned
20 the priest, like. To me it was just living that life
21 and I didn't know any other life. When I came out to
22 the real world, it was a totally different life. You
23 were secluded, like, you know.

24 Q. Yes. Now you mentioned this time you went up to the
25 Creggan with another girl.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So that meant you were going down across the main bridge
3 and then up through the city centre right out to the far
4 side of the city. Isn't that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you walk the whole way?

7 A. We walked, yes.

8 Q. Yes. Now those of us who can remember what Derry was
9 like in those times will remember that there were places
10 like the Creggan where there was a lot of shooting and
11 a lot of bombing going on.

12 A. It was very, very --

13 Q. A lot of people could get caught up just because they
14 were in the wrong place in a shooting or an explosion or
15 whatever.

16 A. I do understand that, like. It was very dangerous. It
17 was very hard times sometimes.

18 Q. Yes, and as I understand it, it was when you came back
19 that SR49 got at you about it?

20 A. No. I was in my bed in my dormitory.

21 Q. That's what I mean. You had come back. You had gone
22 back to bed --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and she presumably had found out what you had done.

25 A. I don't know actually, like, what time it was, to be

1 honest with you. All I know is I was in bed and she
2 came in, like, and she was very angry and that's how it
3 was, like, you know, but it was a once-off incident.

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. It was like she was a very good nun. Don't get me
6 wrong. It was just out of character. It was
7 a once-off.

8 Q. And do you it was because --

9 A. She was worried about me.

10 Q. -- she was worried about --

11 A. Concerned.

12 Q. -- what could have happened to you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I see. Thank you very much.

15 MS DOHERTY: HIA202, thanks very much. Can I just ask: did
16 you work a full day in the laundry in Derry? Was it a
17 ...?

18 A. To me it was the routine, like. I didn't know. It was
19 just normal life to us, like, you know. We just got up
20 and went to the laundry, like --

21 Q. Got up and went to the --

22 A. -- because we had to have everything perfect to go out
23 to the public. Everything had to be spot on, like, you
24 know. Everything had to be right.

25 Q. So you would work in the morning, then have your lunch

1 --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- and then go back again?

4 A. I worked in, like, the dry cleaners, you know, where you
5 press --

6 Q. With the big press?

7 A. Yes. I pressed the trousers, you know.

8 Q. Okay, and then in the evening when you were finished
9 work, and at weekends if you didn't go home, what sort
10 of recreation did you have? Did ...?

11 A. There was like music, like, and went outside, just went
12 outside.

13 Q. Just went outside and kept -- but the girls kind of
14 spent time together and relaxed together?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Okay, and can I just ask did you see anyone else slapped
17 during the time that you were there?

18 A. No.

19 Q. That was the one. If you got into any bother, were
20 there other forms of punishment? Was there anything
21 else? If you hadn't done anything properly, was ...?

22 A. I am just speaking for myself to be honest with you,
23 like, you know. There's -- I can't speak for everyone.

24 Everyone has their own story to tell, like, you know.

25 So ...

1 Q. So that is the only time you got into any bother --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- when you were -- when you were there?

4 A. I just put my head down and got on with my work and ...

5 Q. And managed okay?

6 A. Managed, yes.

7 Q. Thanks, HIA202.

8 A. I made the best out of a bad situation.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you, HIA202.

10 MR LANE: When you were in either Newry or Derry, did your
11 family visit you much?

12 A. I remember my mother brought me into it, like, you know.

13 Q. Uh-huh, and --

14 A. I don't think so, no. Some of my family didn't even
15 know I was in there.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. It was just one of those -- the times of The Troubles
18 and all that, it was -- you know, it was like
19 a different world to the world we are in today.

20 Q. I think you had was it nine brothers and one sister? Is
21 that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Were any of them in a children's home or anything like
24 that at all?

25 A. No.

1 Q. So it was just yourself out of the family?

2 A. Just me, yes.

3 Q. So it -- sorry.

4 A. I was -- I just felt, like -- I felt as if my mother
5 didn't love me. She didn't want me, and I think she
6 just -- it was much easier to put me in somewhere, like,
7 where she wouldn't have the worry of me or -- do you
8 know? I felt very unloved, abandoned.

9 Q. And it was a surprise to you when it happened as well,
10 was it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

13 A. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA202, I am sure you will be pleased to
15 hear that's the last question we have for you. Thank
16 you very much indeed for coming to speak to us --

17 A. Thank you.

18 Q. -- and sharing your experiences with us today --

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. -- particularly as you probably had to come some
21 distance to get here, but thank you particularly for
22 coming.

23 A. Thank you.

24 MS SMITH: Thank you, HIA202.

25 A. Thank you.

1 Q. If you want to go back with Rosemary, I will see you
2 shortly.

3 (Witness withdrew)

4 Evidence of HIA359 summarised by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

5 MS SMITH: Chairman, there is another piece of evidence to
6 be put before the Inquiry today, and that is in respect
7 of "HIA359", who is, as it happens, another HIA359.
8 This HIA359 is unable to attend due to ill health. The
9 Inquiry has received a medical from her GP dated 3rd
10 March of this year, which is at 3282, and the Inquiry
11 has accepted that she cannot attend.

12 Her statement can be seen at GSC058 to 067.

13 There is a Health & Social Care Board response at
14 250 to 251, indicating that there was no Social Service
15 involvement in HIA359's care.

16 We've received two statements from the Good Shepherd
17 congregation. **SR281** is at 335 to 346 and
18 Sister Ethna's is at 563 to 565. **SR281**
19 statement at paragraph -- from paragraph 7 at GSC336
20 onwards addresses the allegations that HIA359 makes.

21 Now HIA356's personal details are set out in
22 paragraphs 1 and 2, and it is clear she spent time in
23 a Good Shepherd institution in Limerick. She thought
24 that she went to the Good Shepherd in Newry aged 14 or
25 15. In fact, the records show that she arrived in

1 January 1955, when she was aged 17 and a half. So she
2 was older than she thought. **SR281** believes that
3 much of what she recalls relates not to Newry but to her
4 time in Limerick. She did not leave the Good Shepherd
5 Newry until 1961, when she was aged 23. Only six months
6 of her time in Newry, from the 9th January 1955 until
7 she turned 18 on 11th July, fall within the Inquiry's
8 terms of reference.

9 It is difficult to extract what complaints relate to
10 those months alone. So I simply propose to go through
11 what she says and tell you what the Good Shepherd say in
12 return.

13 Paragraph 4 of her statement she describes how she
14 felt on arrival. She says here that the Good Shepherd
15 had a bakery. This would appear to be an example of the
16 confusion between the two institutions, because we are
17 told that there was no bakery in St. Mary's, Newry, but
18 there was, in fact, one in Limerick.

19 Paragraph 5 she goes on to say, for example, there
20 were eighty girls coming from the courts and other Good
21 Shepherd places in the North and South and they were all
22 ages and she was the second youngest. We are told by
23 the Good Shepherd that there were only ever thirty to
24 fifty people resident in Newry.

25 Paragraph 6 she talks about a particular nun, GSC26,

1 who was teaching in the classroom. She says she knew
2 her from Limerick. SR281 has said that this nun
3 never worked in Newry, although she did work in
4 Limerick.

5 She said that she wore a uniform, and in Newry they
6 wore their own clothes, according to the congregation.

7 Paragraph 7 she describes the routine, which I am
8 not going to go through here, but it does not accord
9 with the recollections of SR281 who sets out her
10 recollection at paragraph 8 on page 338.

11 Paragraph 8 she talks about there being silence at
12 meal times and being punished by having to kneel and
13 eating at a penance table and having cocoa without milk
14 or sugar, and describes how she was once so hungry that
15 she ate a newspaper. SR281 makes the point that
16 there was still food rationing until 1954, that the nuns
17 got the same food as the girls, and they could ask for
18 more food if they wished. They were read aloud to at
19 meal times to entertain them, but she doesn't recall
20 ever seeing this punishment, as it is described, with
21 a penance table or being made to kneel on the floor to
22 eat. We have heard from another applicant about being
23 made to stand to eat and that was recognised as
24 a punishment.

25 Paragraph 9 she talks about having her name changed

1 and being given a number. The congregation have said
2 that the name was changed and that was to protect
3 people's privacy, and they weren't allowed to discuss
4 their background, because -- again to protect each
5 individual's privacy. The Good Shepherd have said that
6 numbers were only used for the laundry.

7 She talks about getting TV for two hours on
8 a Saturday night and about Sunday night dances and being
9 made to dance with a chair if she got too -- if they got
10 too close to each other, the girls got too close to each
11 other. SR281 recalls that TV was watched during
12 the week as well as at the weekend.

13 Paragraph 11 she talks about another girl whom she
14 remembers. She is essentially saying here that some
15 girls were favoured. The Good Shepherd say that this
16 particular girl that she remembers worked in the laundry
17 and was asked to mentor new girls when they came to the
18 convent. She confirmed this particular girl did go to
19 for months for treatment for an illness from
20 which she suffered.

21 Paragraph 12 she talks about being -- sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN: Does that mean it is accepted that there was
23 a girl who fitted this description in Newry?

24 MS SMITH: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

1 MS SMITH: She says that she was petrified of a particular
2 girl, whom she names there, whom she describes as having
3 mental health issues, who would get up in the middle of
4 the night and attack someone. The nuns would send her
5 to Armagh. She could come back a few weeks later and it
6 would happen again. She said:

7 "She was very dangerous, because she would pick up
8 a knife and swing for you, and everyone in the dormitory
9 was afraid to sleep and all the girls were scared of
10 her. She never attacked me, but I was afraid of her,
11 and she caught a nun by the veil once and tore her
12 veil."

13 Now the congregation have said there was a resident
14 called **GSC31**, which is something similar to the name
15 that's remembered by HIA359. She said -- they said that
16 she was there for a brief time before being admitted to
17 a psychiatric hospital. **SR281** has no
18 recollection of her attacking anyone or catching a nun
19 by the throat. It would be speculation to say that this
20 may have been something HIA359 might have been told by
21 other girls in the home.

22 Paragraph 13:

23 "The nuns allowed us outside sometimes. We went to
24 the seaside in Warrenpoint once a year. One year I was
25 stopped from going as punishment. On a Saturday we

1 would go outside to the garden, the avenue, weeding with
2 the rake and hoe. I hated it. You had to do it in
3 silence."

4 SR281 said that trips to Warrenpoint were day
5 trips. There were holidays taken at Cranfield, which
6 for a week, in Co. Down, and no-one had to work in
7 silence.

8 Paragraph 14 she talks about remembering watching TV
9 and doing embroidery and sitting beside a particular nun
10 when an advert came on TV. She said that:

11 "A person in the advert said, 'He loved me enough to
12 buy me a box of chocolates' and I said, 'Isn't that
13 lovely?' Then the TV was turned off and a cloth put
14 over it. Everyone was told to leave the room and I was
15 put in the corner in darkness. I was locked in the room
16 to late that night. I did not understand what that
17 remark meant. It was very frightening. I was locked in
18 the room a few times for answering back to the nuns. To
19 this day I don't like being on my own and I leave the
20 door of my flat unlocked."

21 It was a nun called GSC24 that she alleged had done
22 that to her. What the congregation have said is --

23 SR281 said that she finds it hard to accept that
24 she would have been punished like that for such
25 a remark, and it was not in her -- keeping with her

1 memories of the Good Shepherd in Newry.

2 Sister Ethna at page 563 has given information that
3 GSC24 died in September 1988 and those who were in
4 St. Mary's at the time find it difficult to believe this
5 would have happened in a homely and relaxed atmosphere.

6 Paragraph 15 she talks about the retreats and about
7 being caned for giggling during a retreat. She said
8 that she was often slapped on the hands. **SR281**
9 has said that she never saw anyone slapped or hit and
10 never saw a cane used and that there was no corporal
11 punishment in the Good Shepherd institutions.

12 Paragraph 16 she talks about working in the laundry.
13 She thought that she was 16. If she was, that cannot
14 have been in Newry, as we know she didn't arrive there
15 until later, but she does say that she was whacked for
16 tearing by accident. Certainly
17 is more likely to have had taken
18 care of in Newry than elsewhere.

19 She liked the packing room. She talks there about
20 someone, a laundry man, who took the laundry out. That
21 was the contact she had with people from outside.

22 She remembers then an occasion where she fell over
23 a bundle of ironing in the packing room by accident.

24 "The nuns beat me with a cane on the back of the
25 legs. That was a bad beating. I tried not to cry. If

1 you cried, the nuns may have beat you more. The nuns
2 usually hit me on the back of the legs as opposed to my
3 upper body. They would have been conscious of my health
4 at times, as I think the nuns in Limerick told them.
5 There was a nun, who was GSC30, and she was like
6 a doctor. She was very understanding and kind.
7 I remember she gave me a sweet from her pocket and
8 I think she was moved on."

9 Again the congregation would say that they never saw
10 anyone whacked or struck as alleged, and **SR281**
11 herself worked in the packing room. She said there were
12 four or five nuns there and the ladies and her memory is
13 of them always singing and chatting.

14 Paragraph 18 she describes being beaten with a strap
15 when she crashed into a nun on a bicycle, being told
16 that she was useless and "Nobody wanted you". Again the
17 Good Shepherd would say that there were no canes or
18 straps. There was no name calling, which went against
19 the core of their ministry to uphold the dignity and
20 rights of women.

21 Paragraph 20 she talks about getting her appendix
22 out and being visited at the home by a nurse from the
23 hospital. She says that the nuns stopped this person
24 coming to visit her, because she was in a mixed
25 marriage. She said she would never forgive the nuns for

1 that. It broke her heart that this relationship was
2 brought to an end by them.

3 On 20 -- paragraph 21 she talks about going out on
4 12th July, pretending to be sick at mass, because they
5 wanted to go out and watch the Orangemen parade. They
6 were allowed to go on -- they were not allowed to go on
7 the roof, but Newry had a flat roof so that they could
8 climb on to it. She said:

9 "The Orangemen would rip off the Good Shepherd gold
10 plate sign and throw it on the railway line every year."

11 She remembers one year they were going to camp in a
12 field that belonged to the convent, being brought into
13 the church to pray hard that it would rain on them,
14 because the nuns were afraid that if they came into the
15 field, it would get out of control.

16 **SR281** says that all of the convent, the nuns
17 and girls, would have gone to watch the Orange parades.
18 They all got on to the roof basically to do that.

19 She talks in paragraph 22 about a swimming pool
20 which was made out of cement bricks. They had swimming
21 togs made out of flour bags that were washed and dyed.
22 They were allowed into the swimming pool on a Friday
23 evening, but couldn't swim, because there was nobody
24 there to teach you. She didn't like it. The water was
25 dirty.

1 SR281 said that there was such a pool, but
2 that it was an outdoor pool. It was dangerous and it
3 was dirty and it wasn't a functioning pool. No-one was
4 allowed to swim in it. The description of clothing
5 being made of dyed sacking is something that is simply
6 not accepted or recognised by the congregation.

7 She does say that Newry was better than Limerick.
8 She goes on then to describe something that clearly
9 happened in Limerick, which is a Christmas there.

10 Paragraph 24 she said that she went to Clonmel when
11 she was 17 or 18, but, in fact, we know that she must
12 have been 23 when she left. The job was supplied by the
13 Good Shepherd. She kept in touch with GSC36, who she
14 describes as lovely.

15 Her life after care then is described in
16 paragraphs 25 through to 32. She describes the effect
17 of her time in paragraphs 30 and 31, where she says:

18 "To this day I don't like being on my own. If I am
19 on my own, I panic. At home I have to have the door
20 open so I can see out. I don't like being locked in or
21 enclosed spaces. I got locked in the dark by the nuns
22 several times and it seems to have stuck with me. Now
23 when I go to sleep, I like light of some description,
24 like a night light or bedroom door open, so I don't feel
25 trapped. I still remember being told by the nuns that

1 nobody would have me and I was useless. To this day
2 there are certain places I will not go into. I won't go
3 into Brown Thomas in Dublin, because I think I am not
4 good enough to go in there. There are lots of places
5 I won't go. If I look in and see somebody very well
6 dressed, I won't go in. I could walk into a room and
7 there could six women. If I don't like the look of one
8 of them, I would have a fear. There are certain women I
9 can't take to. I don't know why that is."

10 Paragraph 33 she describes how she received
11 compensation under the redress scheme in the Republic of
12 Ireland. As part of that process she has received
13 counselling for the past thirteen years.

14 That concludes this week's evidence, Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Since HIA359 has not able to come, we
16 presume that, unless she says to the contrary, she
17 wishes her anonymity to be preserved?

18 MS SMITH: Yes, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN: Very well. Somewhat earlier than usual, but we
20 will rise now and resume on Monday.

21 (10.55 am)

22 (Inquiry adjourned until Monday, 14th March 2016)

23 --ooOoo--

24

25