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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 5th April 2016

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 196)

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

1 Tuesday, 5th April 2016

2 (10.00 am)

3 WITNESS HIA404 (called)

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Can I remind  
5 anyone who has a mobile phone please to ensure it is  
6 turned off or placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate", and I also  
7 must remind everyone that no photography is permitted  
8 here in the chamber or anywhere on the premises.

9 Yes, Ms Smith.

10 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

11 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
12 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA404. He is  
13 "HIA404". HIA404 wishes to take a religious oath and he  
14 also wishes to maintain his anonymity.

15 A. Okay.

16 WITNESS HIA404 (sworn)

17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA404. Please sit down.

18 MS SMITH: HIA404's statement is in the bundle at LIS064 to  
19 068.

20 The Health & Social Care Board response statement is  
21 at LIS693 to 694.

22 Now, HIA404, your statement is on the screen here in  
23 front of you. As you can see, it says "The Witness  
24 Statement of ...", you, "HIA404". Can I just ask you to  
25 confirm that this is the witness statement that you have

1 given to the Inquiry?

2 A. Yes, sir. That's from the knowledge that is, yes.

3 Q. And you signed that on 20th February 2016. Is this the  
4 statement of evidence that you want the Inquiry to take  
5 into account together with anything else that we look at  
6 today or that you say today?

7 A. Pardon?

8 Q. Is this the statement of evidence that you want the  
9 Inquiry to have regard to --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- together with anything else that you tell us today?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. Well, HIA404, your personal details are set out in  
14 paragraphs 1 to 4 of your statement. You are now aged  
15 66. Isn't that correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Paragraph 3 of your statement deals with your time at  
18 Lissue House. You say that you were very young and you  
19 believe that, in fact -- in paragraph 2 I think you  
20 talked about this -- that you went into Lissue just  
21 before Christmas in 1951 or 1952, when you would have  
22 been about two or three years of age, but we were  
23 looking at some documents earlier this morning that I am  
24 going to call up now, which gives us more definite dates  
25 --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- as to when you were there. If we could look, first  
3 of all, at LIS45054. Now we are going to be scrolling  
4 backwards through these, though.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. You will see this is from The Royal Belfast Hospital for  
7 Sick Children and it is dated 1st August 1951. Now your  
8 full name is on this document, HIA404, but I just wanted  
9 to reassure you that before it goes on to our website we  
10 will have blocked your name out.

11 If you can just scroll down through that to the end,  
12 you will see that just the second last line it said:

13 "We are sending him to Lissue House today for a few  
14 weeks' convalescence."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It is signed for Dr Fraser, who was the doctor who was  
17 looking after you.

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. You had a number of health problems as a young child.

20 The next document, if we scroll backwards, please,  
21 to 45053, is dated 6th September 1951 and it just says  
22 that:

23 "He is still at complete rest in bed and his general  
24 condition is reasonably satisfactory."

25 It is a progress report it is headed as.

1           The next document, if we scroll back to the  
2 preceding page, again is from Dr Fraser and it is  
3 8th November '51. It said that you weren't:

4           "... settling as well as we would like."

5           Temperature is fluctuating. It says:

6           "I am afraid he will have to continue at rest for  
7 some considerable time yet."

8           Then if we go back to the preceding page, this is  
9 a document that is headed "NITA", which would have been  
10 the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority. It says  
11 that you were admitted on 17th December 1951 --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- and discharged on 8th June 1952. So it's not clear  
14 whether you were admitted to somewhere other than Lissue  
15 House, but it is -- having spoken to a representative of  
16 the Health & Social Care Board, they think it is likely  
17 that you stayed in Lissue --

18 A. I believe so, yes.

19 Q. -- but you were admitted to the care of the Northern  
20 Ireland Tuberculosis Authority in December 1951 and  
21 discharged from their authority -- then from Lissue on  
22 8th June '52. If we can just scroll down to the bottom  
23 of this page, please, you will see that there is a note:

24           "See at clinic on 2nd December."

25 A. That's correct, yes. I see that.

1 Q. Then if we go to the next page, which is 45050, going  
2 backwards, this is a note to your doctor from the  
3 Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority where you are  
4 seen at the Chest Clinic.

5 A. That's the Authority. I recall that, yes.

6 Q. It says you were examined there actually on 18th  
7 August 1952. So that would seem to suggest that you  
8 were in Lissue from 1st August 1951 until June 1952. So  
9 you were there between the ages of 23 months, just  
10 before your second birthday, until you were 33 months  
11 old, so two and three-quarters years of age in  
12 June 1952.

13 You brought also to the Inquiry some photographs.

14 A. That's correct, yes.

15 Q. If we can just look at those, please, at 45055. The  
16 young child in these photographs is yourself, HIA404.  
17 Isn't that right?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. You are here obviously in the arms of a nurse. If we  
20 can just scroll down, I know the lady is a relative, the  
21 more elderly lady to the left-hand side holding you, and  
22 then --

23 A. Aye. That's , an aunt through marriage.

24 Q. Yes, and then that's your mother?

25 A. That's my mother, yes.

1 Q. Then if we can scroll down to the next page, there's  
2 another couple of photographs, which again shows your  
3 mother and some nursing staff. You say the lady in the  
4 background is the lady who was holding you in the other  
5 photograph, plus a friend of your mother's.

6 A. Yes, that's a work mate.

7 Q. This is obviously you celebrating --

8 A. Second birthday.

9 Q. -- your second birthday, because there is two candles on  
10 the cake. So if you were in Lissue, then this gives us  
11 an idea of what Lissue looked like in the Paediatric  
12 Unit in 1951 --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- when you were two. I think there might be just one  
15 more photograph on that page, but I am not -- no.

16 So piecing together from the documents that you  
17 brought to the Inquiry, from your medical records,  
18 HIA404, it looks like that was the period of time that  
19 you were in Lissue. Now I know that you later spent  
20 time elsewhere, but as I have explained to you --

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. -- we are only looking at what happened to you when you  
23 were in Lissue.

24 Paragraph 5 then, if we can go back to your  
25 statement at 065, you say that you were very young, but

1           you remember incidents where you were physically abused.  
2           While you were saying that you couldn't remember if the  
3           abuse happened at Lissue House, The Royal or  
4           Crawfordsburn, which were other places you were, you do  
5           recall the incidents took place beside a door with  
6           a painted glass window and the windows were open and it  
7           was cold like a dungeon. You remember always feeling  
8           cold and afraid in Lissue, which makes you think that  
9           these incidents happened in Lissue. You were in  
10          a little ward off to the right, and you recall a white  
11          metal cot with a dark red rubber mattress. The mattress  
12          had no bedclothes and you remember being naked and cold.

13    A.   That's correct.

14    Q.   Certainly the photograph we have seen doesn't seem to  
15          suggest a white metal cot.

16    A.   I noticed that there myself. It seemed to be silver --

17    Q.   Yes.

18    A.   -- or, you know, an alloy.

19    Q.   So is it possible then, when we look at that photograph,  
20          knowing that that as best we can work out was Lissue --

21    A.   I still believe it was a white metal cot.

22    Q.   It was definitely white metal?

23    A.   Definitely metal, because it was cold to touch.

24    Q.   Well, you do go on to say -- so it may -- this may not  
25          then have happened in Lissue is what I am -- it is hard

1 to know?

2 A. You've got to understand my age itself.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Because I was so young, I don't actually know where

5 I am. If you are in this building, you can see the

6 yellow, but if they will change the colour of the

7 building and you come in five years later, it mightn't

8 look the same.

9 Q. I appreciate that, HIA404. In any event you say that on  
10 one occasion you were standing up holding on to the bars  
11 of the cot when a nurse came in and beat you. She shook  
12 you very hard. She threw you down on the mattress. You  
13 were so scared you wet yourself. You had no nappy on  
14 and you remember standing in a pool of urine. You  
15 couldn't understand what was happening. You were  
16 crying. The same nurse came in, lifted you, shook you  
17 and threw you down again.

18 A. That's correct 100%.

19 Q. A second nurse came in, put you over her shoulder and  
20 soothed you. The nurse that shook you cleaned your  
21 mattress and put you down again with a slap. You  
22 describe her as short, fat, with mousy hair and a cross  
23 face.

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. You can remember the second nurse scolding the first

1 nurse and telling her that she would get into trouble or  
2 words to that effect.

3 You also then in paragraph 7 go on to describe  
4 an incident involving a male nurse in a white shirt. He  
5 came in and exposed himself through the cot railings.  
6 You now know that he had an erection. You don't believe  
7 he had any physical contact with you in a sexual way.  
8 That's the only incident you can recall that had any  
9 sexual connotations.

10 A. That also is correct.

11 Q. Other stuff would have taken place, but you don't  
12 remember that. You do recall many incidents of getting  
13 slapped and hit with a spoon. You remember the nurses  
14 feeding you and hitting you on the chin and forehead  
15 with a spoon. You know that you were very young, but  
16 those memories have stuck with you.

17 When we were talking earlier, HIA404, what you said  
18 to me was that even though you were a baby essentially  
19 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- a toddler, you have that image of this man standing  
22 at the cot. Isn't that correct?

23 A. I've still got that image, but it's not as clear as what  
24 the images that I have of the nurses beating me. That  
25 is far, far more vivid, but that's only -- it's not

1 blurred or anything. It's an incident, but it seemed to  
2 be in my memory a one-off type of a thing rather -- the  
3 other was consistent, on a regular basis, the other  
4 reference, but that incident of the sexual nature seemed  
5 to be a once or a one-off thing. So it's not as strong,  
6 strong. It's vivid enough, but it's not as strong heavy  
7 --

8 Q. As the others?

9 A. -- memory on me whereas the others are strong heavy.

10 Q. I understand.

11 Paragraph 8 here you describe the fact there were  
12 food rations in the early '50s in Northern Ireland. You  
13 say that your mother told you that she brought up four  
14 eggs every week to Lissue House with your name written  
15 on the eggs, but you never received a egg and you don't  
16 remember getting fed very much. You say you have not  
17 eaten properly your whole life, but you never recall  
18 being happy in Lissue even when your mother came to  
19 visit you there.

20 A. That's very much correct.

21 Q. You go on then in paragraphs 9 to 16 of your statement  
22 to describe your life after you left Lissue. I am not  
23 going to go into the details of that, as I explained to  
24 you, HIA404 --

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. -- but the Panel have read what you have said about your  
2 time in Lissue and they are well aware of what happened  
3 to you subsequently.

4 At paragraph 16, if we can just scroll to that,  
5 please -- it is on -- you say that you came to the  
6 Inquiry to get some sort of closure. Throughout your  
7 life it has caused you stress. You do not feel that  
8 your experiences are as bad as others have suffered.  
9 However, you want to expose the treatment that happened  
10 to children in these institutions. Part of the reason  
11 for that, as you were explaining to me, is that your own  
12 mother suffered serious physical and emotional abuse  
13 from -- you say here The Good Shepherd nuns, but when we  
14 were talking --

15 A. That's correct. Absolutely.

16 Q. You also said that she was in Nazareth House. Is that  
17 right?

18 A. Nazareth House -- Nazareth Lodge, the top of the Ormeau  
19 Road.

20 Q. You say she never got the chance to tell her story. You  
21 explain that you told your mother about your experience  
22 in Lissue two years before she died in 19... -- sorry --  
23 in 2007.

24 A. That was the very first.

25 Q. It upset her greatly, as she believed that you had

1 received the best of treatment in Lissue.

2 A. She bragged that Lissue House was there for the  
3 superstars, the children -- it was like a sanitorium in  
4 the country for -- you know, "You must have got --  
5 I done the best for you, because it was the best  
6 possible ...", and it just went in one ear and out the  
7 other ear with me, because I always believed I was  
8 abused, but I could never say it to her. There are  
9 a number -- a few reasons why I couldn't say it to her.  
10 She was badly abused in Nazareth Lodge and her story  
11 obviously would have been worse than mine. Also she --  
12 if I had challenged her about Lissue House, it would  
13 have been taking into question her as a mother, as if  
14 "You let this happen" or something like that, but I know  
15 it was out of her power. She was under a false  
16 illusion, but I never told her to three years before she  
17 died in 2005. Three years later she died. She was  
18 astonished. I felt mature enough then to tell her and  
19 her old enough not to strike out.

20 Q. I just want to clarify one thing. I don't believe -- it  
21 might be in the bundle -- but there is a note in your  
22 medical records from much later in time to say that your  
23 mother died when you were two years of age, but that was  
24 incorrect. Isn't that right?

25 A. Yes, that was definitely wrong, because it was my Aunt

1                   --

2    Q.   Who had died.

3    A.   -- her sister, who had died when I was approximately  
4           two years old in 1951. My mother just died in 2005.  
5           That is still on the medical file.

6           However, I would like to also point out that there  
7           is a discrepancy in the medical file from approximately  
8           '52 to '57. Them five years is a gap. I have got  
9           everything I can recall and the Inquiry itself attempted  
10          in some form or fashion --

11   Q.   We have not been able to find anything else.

12   A.   -- and they may well be genuinely lost.

13   Q.   Well, HIA404, is there anything else that you want to  
14          tell the Inquiry about Lissue? Now is your opportunity  
15          to do that before I ask you one final question.

16   A.   Other than -- other than the fact that the nurses that  
17          actually did the abuse were young. The photographs  
18          there shows me with like matrons or oldish. Then  
19          weren't the ones dealing with me. It was young nurses  
20          that was dealing with me, but I can't even recall their  
21          uniform, whether it was blue or purple or green.  
22          I can't remember the colours of the uniform. I can only  
23          say that that's because they're so young that that must  
24          have stuck with me.

25          The thing that sticks a lot in my head is the

1 coloured glass door, as I recall, French windows. That  
2 is where I was abused, wherever that coloured glass door  
3 is, and the little ward that I was in was more like  
4 a large cell. The cot was basically near the middle of  
5 the thing and nothing else in it. There was no  
6 bedclothes, no -- it was just a bare rubber they used to  
7 have like sort of operating table. It was a purple --  
8 sorry -- a maroon thick rubber, and I was naked and  
9 there was no clothing on, and the windows were open and  
10 it was always freezing. Whether that there was for some  
11 sort of -- because I was in fevers or something, whether  
12 that was part of the treatment, but certainly the  
13 slapping and beatings weren't part of the treatment.  
14 Other than that I think that's about it.

15 Q. Okay, HIA404. Well, thank you for that. The final  
16 question that we ask people who come to speak to us is  
17 about at the end of its work the Inquiry has to make  
18 recommendations to the government to mark what occurred  
19 in institutions. Now you I know have returned  
20 a questionnaire to the Inquiry.

21 A. That's correct, yes.

22 Q. We were talking -- you felt that there should be some  
23 form of compensation, but your own view is that that  
24 should be a graduated form of compensation in accordance  
25 with --

1 A. Well, I would imagine that -- that to me sounds more  
2 fair. Those who have suffered greatly should be indeed  
3 compensated for greatly. Those who have suffered little  
4 should be compensated little. Whether that should be  
5 a standard amount and then gradual for the depth of the  
6 abuse should increase I'm not sure. That's beyond my  
7 remit. Personally speaking, I am not interested whether  
8 I personally receive compensation, but I do say that  
9 others should. If I do or not, it's immaterial to me.  
10 It doesn't matter. It's just disclosure of the fact and  
11 closure itself is more important to me. Whether  
12 I receive compensation or not I'm not worried, but  
13 others should I believe.

14 Q. Well, HIA404, thank you very much for that. I'm going  
15 to hand you over to the Panel. I'm sure they may have  
16 some questions for you.

17 A. Do you want me to ...?

18 Q. No. If you just stay here, they will ask you some  
19 questions.

20 A. Okay.

21 Questions from THE PANEL

22 CHAIRMAN: HIA404, can you hear me all right?

23 A. I can certainly.

24 Q. Can I just ask you something more about your  
25 recollections of where you were? It seems that you had

1 problems of a tuberculosis type and -- have you any  
2 recollection of being in Crawfordsburn?

3 A. I have recollection of leaving Crawfordsburn, the day  
4 I left it, as vivid as anything, but I don't have that  
5 I think any record -- you know, memory of actually being  
6 in it --

7 Q. Yes, but you remember --

8 A. -- except for one incident where my mother and, as  
9 I call her, my grandmother, who was in the photograph,  
10 wanted to go to the toilet and they couldn't go to the  
11 toilet, and I asked -- I told them to use my po and they  
12 actually did use my po, you know. I remember that quite  
13 clearly.

14 Q. That was in Crawfordsburn?

15 A. That was definitely in Crawfordsburn.

16 Q. Because we know from other parts of the Inquiry and  
17 documents that we have seen there, and it is confirmed  
18 today, that Crawfordsburn had a tuberculose --  
19 tubercular hospital for a while.

20 A. Pardon me, but I wasn't actually in -- they had me  
21 classified as coming in from a TB house, but not me  
22 myself with TB.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I had threatening meningitis, diphtheria, whooping cough  
25 and a lot of other things, but maybe not necessarily TB.

1 Q. Well, might it be that some of the things that you  
2 remember happening happened in Crawfordsburn and not  
3 Lissue, or do you just not know?

4 A. I couldn't go either way on that, to be quite honest,  
5 but I -- it's stronger to me that it was Lissue House.

6 Q. Thank you very much.

7 MS DOHERTY: Thank you. I don't have any questions.

8 A. Okay. Thank you.

9 MR LANE: Could I just ask you a bit more about the hitting  
10 that you suffered? It was the younger nurses you said  
11 that hit you.

12 A. The heating?

13 Q. You were hit with a spoon.

14 A. Oh, sorry. Hit, yes.

15 Q. You were hit with a spoon by younger nurses I think you  
16 said.

17 A. Aye, that was the younger nurses.

18 Q. Did they hit all the children?

19 A. I never seen any other children.

20 Q. Ah! Right.

21 A. I never ever seen any other children other than the  
22 birthday reception, but I was isolated. I was isolated  
23 like a small -- like a large cell, but not a ward.

24 I was there on my own and they kept coming in -- the  
25 nurses kept coming in and out. People visited me in

1           that room. I didn't get out of that room.

2    Q. Right. What sort of spoon are we talking about?

3    A. Well, I think it was maybe a soup spoon type of a thing.

4    Q. Right.

5    A. They hit me on the forehead and on the chin presumably  
6       because I wouldn't or couldn't eat.

7    Q. Right.

8    A. I have had an eating disorder all my life. Even now  
9    to this day I have an eating disorder, not bulimia or  
10   something like that there. It is just a bad eating  
11   disorder. Even my family haven't seen me eating.  
12   I don't eat in public. If I came to visit your house  
13   for a week, I wouldn't eat in it, and I wouldn't eat in  
14   a cafe. Then I would maybe get something out of a shop  
15   and eat it in your back yard or something, you know.  
16   You wouldn't see me eating it. I have an eating  
17   disorder from that and I think it stems from.

18   Q. So were the nurses feeding you then?

19   A. Well, they must have been --

20   Q. Yes.

21   A. -- otherwise I wouldn't have survived.

22   Q. Yes.

23   A. They must have been feeding me something, but I don't  
24   recall ever eating.

25   Q. Right.

1 A. But I must have obviously ate something, because  
2 I wouldn't have survived.

3 Q. And this was all the nurses behaved in that way, did  
4 they? I mean, it wasn't just one nurse?

5 A. Not all the nurses, no. Not all the nurses, no. There  
6 was one in particular with a cross face and the mousy  
7 brown hair, small and fat, very cranky looking, she 100%  
8 every time she came near me she hit me, and on one or  
9 two occasions another nurse, actually I get the feeling  
10 she was saving me, because she had checked her. You got  
11 to understand I didn't even speak English, because I was  
12 a baby. I couldn't speak English, but I knew what they  
13 were saying. Even though I didn't understand English,  
14 but I knew what they were saying. Whether that  
15 developed a year or two later when I did understand  
16 English, and then I had recorded it in my mind like  
17 a tape recording, and then understood it when I played  
18 it back later, but the incidents -- it was a bad  
19 experience all round.

20 Q. Yes. Thank you very much.

21 A. You're welcome. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA404, thank you for coming to speak to us  
23 today --

24 A. Indeed.

25 Q. -- and to share your experiences with you -- with us,



1 a reference number, "HIA421". Can I just ask you to  
2 confirm that this is the statement of evidence that you  
3 gave to the Inquiry and that you signed that on 28th  
4 February of 2016?

5 A. It is, yes.

6 Q. Your personal details are set out there in the first  
7 four paragraphs, HIA421. You are now aged 44. Isn't  
8 that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you recall going to Lissue House with your brother  
11 and you see we have even given him a reference number to  
12 ensure that his details aren't in the public domain  
13 also.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You recall that you were taken there when you were  
16 approximately five years of age. You don't know the  
17 reason why you were admitted to Lissue, but we know from  
18 the Social Services' records that you actually went  
19 there on 16th January 1976. So you were right in saying  
20 that you went there when you were five. It was because  
21 your siblings and yourself were out of control, if I can  
22 put it that way, at home --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and your mother was unable to cope. So you were  
25 taken to Lissue, first of all, but your mother took you

1 home a few days later on 21st January '76, and as you  
2 were unhappy with that -- the Social Services I should  
3 say were unhappy with that and they got a Place of  
4 Safety Order on 22nd January '76, when you were brought  
5 back into Lissue. Then ultimately you went home on 19th  
6 February 1976. So you were there for a period of about  
7 four weeks in total over that period between 16th  
8 January and 19th February.

9 Now at paragraph 5 of your statement you describe  
10 what you remember about Lissue. You say:

11 "I remember my first day in Lissue. I was brought  
12 into a big building with massive doors and a long  
13 corridor. At the time I didn't know what Lissue was,  
14 but it felt like a hospital."

15 You remember that the staff ushered your brother and  
16 you away while your mother went down the corridor and  
17 left you. You can't remember how long you stayed in  
18 Lissue, but you do remember it was a horrible place. As  
19 I have said, you were there for about four weeks.

20 "It was very strict and there was no care or  
21 affection from the staff."

22 You remember lots of children crying and screaming  
23 all the time.

24 "It seemed like nobody cared that the children were  
25 unhappy. It was a cold and frightening place."

1           You went into Lissue wearing your normal clothes and  
2           you remember wearing odd pyjamas whilst you were there.  
3           You don't know where those clothes came from.

4           You go on to describe in paragraph 6 how you shared  
5           a room with your brother at the start. You were  
6           frightened of him. He had behavioural problems and was  
7           really violent. He was always trying to break and smash  
8           things and trying to escape. You remember that the  
9           staff tied his arms in a child's jacket to restrain him.

10           We were talking earlier, HIA421, and I was asking  
11           you if you could describe this jacket to me. So do you  
12           feel able to do that or do you want --

13    A.   No. They just -- the jacket itself, to me it was like  
14           a mummy's outfit. It looked like a big bandage twisted  
15           round. That's the way I seen it then. So now I know it  
16           was a straitjacket, but then to me it was just them ones  
17           tying him up to keep him from -- his arms -- he couldn't  
18           use his arms, and they were able to lift him, like, from  
19           the back like cattle, you know, and hold him like above,  
20           you know, the floor and remove him from the situations,  
21           you know.

22    Q.   Yes. He wasn't that much difference in age to you.  
23           Isn't that right?

24    A.   I think he's about two or three years older than me.

25    Q.   I will just double check that. He, in fact, would have

1           been born just two years before you.

2    A.   Uh-huh.

3    Q.   So would have been two years older than you.

4    A.   Uh-huh.

5    Q.   So he would have been aged 7 at this time.

6    A.   Yes.

7    Q.   We have heard from the people who have given evidence to  
8           the Inquiry on paper and we will hear from some of them  
9           that there were no straitjackets. There were no jackets  
10          like this used in Lissue.

11   A.   Well, I dispute that, because at the end of the day now,  
12          as I said, I now know what it is, and what I seen then  
13          it was a restraint. It was definitely something to hold  
14          his arms and keep him in control so they could remove  
15          him, you know. To me it looked like a mummy bandage in  
16          my head as a child then. It was like a mummy bandage,  
17          you know.

18   Q.   You go on to describe the kind of behaviour that he was  
19          engaged in. You say that he would kick out and scream  
20          hysterically.

21   A.   Yes.

22   Q.   He would also thump you and take his anger out on you.

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   You don't understand why the people in Lissue didn't  
25          protect you from him.

1 A. No, they didn't. They left me in the same room where,  
2 I mean, he would batter the life out of me. I mean, he  
3 would do all sorts of strange, like, violent things.  
4 You know, he would bang your head off walls. I mean,  
5 he'd kick you. You know, he would just be like really  
6 horrible to me. I don't know why they kept me and him  
7 in the same room while we were there because of the  
8 stuff he did.

9 Q. Eventually you were moved out of that room --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- to a single room.

12 You go on to describe the staff in paragraph 7 here,  
13 HIA421. You say they were very physical and rough.  
14 They pulled up by your arms and your hair and they  
15 trailed you down the stairs. You were shoved, dragged  
16 and thrown into your room and locked in on several  
17 occasions. It was an awful place to be in.

18 I am just going to pause there, because when we were  
19 talking earlier, you would say that you yourself were  
20 not the best behaved of children.

21 A. No.

22 Q. You would accept that the behaviour that you were  
23 exhibiting was challenging for the staff.

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. However, you remember that they used what -- a term that

1 has been used in the Inquiry -- restraint on you.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you could maybe just tell us how they did that to  
4 you.

5 A. It was a physical restraint where staff would pin you,  
6 pin you to the ground and, like, somebody would be on  
7 top of you. They would control your legs and you were  
8 like controlled from your neck to your knees. You  
9 couldn't move, but then your hands were held. You know,  
10 you were held on the ground where somebody was sitting  
11 -- maybe two staff three times or maybe three staff at  
12 times, you know, depending on how aggressive you were.  
13 For the age of me and the way -- I was very strong and  
14 I was very aggressive.

15 Q. You were a 5-year-old child --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- but you were quite strong?

18 A. Yes, and quite aggressive as well.

19 Q. You did say to me when we were talking earlier that  
20 sometimes you couldn't breathe with the weight of the  
21 person who was holding you down.

22 A. Yes, because remember they were big people and when they  
23 -- like when you -- all I can describe it is whenever  
24 you kind of flipped out, you were angry, I mean, this is  
25 the way they dealt with it. I think, you know, with me,

1           you know, they pinned me down. I didn't get a jacket or  
2           the mummy wrap or nothing like that there. I mean,  
3           I was just pinned to the ground and left to squeal,  
4           squeal out, you know, when it was going on, sometimes  
5           near sick, you know, because you were held that length  
6           of time and the weight on you, you know.

7    Q.   This only -- you were only ever held down on the floor.  
8           Were you ever held down on the bed at all?

9    A.   No. I was never held on the bed. I was sat on the bad  
10           and forced just to sit on the bed and that was it, so  
11           I was, but no, because I would just kick out and, you  
12           know, wriggle and, you know, whatever, you know, bite,  
13           you know. So, no, I was never held down on the bed  
14           apart from when LS17 was -- sorry -- apart from him who  
15           should not be mentioned when he was getting at me. So  
16           ...

17   Q.   Well, you say that you saw other children -- don't  
18           worry. We can use names in here. Don't worry about  
19           that, HIA421.

20   A.   All right. Okay.

21   Q.   I will just remind people that the names aren't to be  
22           used outside the chamber.

23   A.   Right.

24   Q.   It's very difficult not to use people's names.

25   A.   Yes.

1 Q. We appreciate that. So don't worry about that at all.

2 But you say you saw other children being dragged  
3 along the floor by their arms into their rooms and being  
4 restrained.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say you found it upsetting, because you didn't know  
7 why you were there. You remember on one occasion  
8 a staff member pulled you by your neck. You can't  
9 recall whether that was a male or female member of staff  
10 or what they looked like. You don't know if it was  
11 because you were young or because you were in there for  
12 such a short time that you don't remember, but you just  
13 remember feeling scared and wanting to go home.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Paragraph 8 you go on to talk about the fact that you  
16 were a bedwetter and that you had wet the bed from you  
17 were really young. You say staff refused to change your  
18 bedsheets.

19 A. I think it got to the stage where I was wetting the bed  
20 so much people got fed up with me, you know. Maybe  
21 that's the way it was, but, I mean, I didn't have people  
22 coming in and, you know, changing my beds and saying,  
23 you know, "It's not your fault. We understand". The  
24 bed would be left for days.

25 Q. You say that you would be left wearing the same wet

1 underwear for days.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You said it was sore, and when you complained about it,  
4 the staff would drag you into the bathroom, throw you  
5 into the bath. You were bathed in cold water with  
6 disinfectant. You said it smelt something like  
7 a cleaner would mop the floors with. You remember your  
8 skin was roaring red and they washed and scrubbed you  
9 down. It was very sore.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. After a bath you would be left standing freezing with no  
12 towel. That happened frequently you say because you  
13 were a constant bedwetter.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Sometimes you said you had to sleep on the floor when  
16 your bed was wet.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The sheets were never changed and it smelt appalling.  
19 You couldn't sleep properly and found it hard to cope  
20 during the day because it was (sic) so tired.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now you will understand that those who were in charge of  
23 Lissue would dispute that this is how bedwetters were  
24 treated in Lissue. They said it was a hospital and  
25 cleanliness was important and that they would have

1 changed children, and, in fact, they got children up who  
2 were bedwetters in the middle of the night and took them  
3 to the bathroom.

4 A. No. They knew that I was a bad bedwetter. Like I would  
5 maybe wet the bed through the night and maybe before  
6 morning wet again and they knew. I mean there was --  
7 no, there was none of that there niceness where they  
8 come and clean your bed and give you nice bedclothes and  
9 stuff. There was none of it, none of it at all. When  
10 I went in, yes, the bedclothes were dry and, like, clean  
11 and, you know, stuff like that there, but when  
12 I started, you know, there was just no help there.  
13 There was no help, nobody coming in and doing the big  
14 person stuff for me. Definitely not.

15 Q. You don't remember a buzzer system being used that would  
16 alert staff when a child had wet the bed?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Paragraph 9 you go on to say that you found it difficult  
19 to eat in Lissue. If you refused to eat your meals, the  
20 staff would leave the food sitting until it was eaten  
21 the next day. It could have been sitting for a day or  
22 more.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Sometimes you were so hungry you would eat it. Some of  
25 the food didn't taste good. You remember getting cereal

1 and toast in the mornings, potatoes for dinner. You  
2 say:

3 "Mornings were mayhem."

4 You remember children screaming and banging at the  
5 table.

6 You also go on then in paragraph 10 to talk about a  
7 sit room -- you remember sitting in a group where you  
8 used to stare out the window. You never interacted or  
9 bonded with anyone. You say:

10 "Children were not allowed to talk and communication  
11 wasn't encouraged."

12 Now we have seen photographs and know that there was  
13 a play area in Lissue. Did you ever play outside that  
14 you can remember?

15 A. I remember the play area. I remember the wee place you  
16 went out to play, but I -- this is going to be stupid  
17 sounding -- but I wasn't normal. You know, I didn't  
18 want to be -- I wasn't happy. So you have to be happy  
19 to be able to go out and mix with the other kids and do  
20 normal things like -- no. I sort of like secluded  
21 myself and, you know, the other kids to me were weird.  
22 I was probably weird to them ones. There would be  
23 outbursts and stuff like that. A child would attack you  
24 for no reason. So, I mean, I just -- I cut myself off  
25 and I was me on my own or with him, you know. That's

1 the way it was, you know.

2 Q. Okay. Can I just ask a little bit about the sitting in  
3 a group room?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. We were talking about this earlier. I was saying to you  
6 that the Inquiry has heard that there was -- before  
7 children -- after breakfast and before children went to  
8 school there was a group children's meeting where  
9 children could air grievances. For example --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- if a child had -- you know, wanted to complain about  
12 another child hitting him or something like that, they  
13 could do that at that meeting. Is that what you are  
14 talking about here?

15 A. I remember, yes, there was a group meeting. There was a  
16 room with a -- a bigger room with the kids round in  
17 a circle and chairs, but there was ones who would, you  
18 know, talk and stuff, but you were afraid to say  
19 anything against a member of staff. You were afraid to  
20 say, "Look, Sister whatever you call her, she done this  
21 to me" or "Why did she do that to me?" None of the kids  
22 would have turned round and said anything but they would  
23 have took -- people would have asked questions, you  
24 know, like, "Why are we here?", "How long -- when am I  
25 going home?" Like, I would want to know when my mummy

1 was coming to get me, you know.

2 Q. But it wasn't a case of treatment or therapy? This was  
3 just a meeting where you could sort of say things like,  
4 "Why am I here?"

5 A. No. It was supposed to be that kind of room, but  
6 I remember they were recording in the room. There was  
7 a big like an easel kind of thing with a camera on top  
8 of it. That was in the room every time you went into  
9 the room. I think they were recording the way kids were  
10 behaving, because, like, kids wouldn't sit on the  
11 chairs. Kids were running round the chairs, they were  
12 jumping on the chairs, you know, going crazy, but when  
13 I was in the group room, you didn't want to tell anybody  
14 anything. You didn't feel safe enough to say, "Listen,  
15 why is my bed done like that there?" or "Why am I  
16 getting bathed in cold water?" or "Why did she drag me  
17 out by the hair?" Do you know what I mean? You were  
18 scared to say anything, because they weren't nice  
19 people. They weren't -- you know when you can approach  
20 somebody when they're warm and friendly and, like, their  
21 personality? You couldn't approach them. You couldn't  
22 do that kind of -- you know, because, I mean, you didn't  
23 know what way they were going to take it. You could be  
24 locked in your room all day for even being cheeky.

25 Q. I mean, I think the words you used to me were that you

1 were a mouthy wee child.

2 A. Yes. I had come from Like, anybody from

3 has got a wee mouth on them, you know.

4 That's part of your growing up and your training, so it

5 is. So ...

6 Q. Well, going on back to your statement here, in  
7 paragraphs 11 to 23, in fact, you describe your life  
8 after Lissue. I am not going to go into the details of  
9 what's recorded there, HIA421. Just to assure you that  
10 the Panel have read it in its entirety.

11 You -- I think you're happy for me to say that you  
12 ended up -- you were abused in your own home and you  
13 ultimately ended up in care from 1986. You spent time  
14 in three other children's homes. You were in ,  
15 which you describe as brilliant. You were in  
16 on the Road and you found it  
17 difficult there. Then you went to . You  
18 loved it in . You thrived and you eventually  
19 left when you were 18 and a half.

20 You also then go on to describe your life after care  
21 in paragraphs 24 to 29, and again I can assure you that  
22 the Panel and Inquiry are aware of what you say about  
23 your life after that, but just now that we have come to  
24 the end of what I want to ask you I know from speaking  
25 to you that you returned a questionnaire to the Inquiry

1 about the Inquiry recommendations that it has to make at  
2 the end of its work. We were having a conversation  
3 about this earlier also.

4 If I have got what you were saying right is that  
5 your view is that children could never be compensated  
6 for the suffering that was caused to them in  
7 institutions --

8 A. Exactly.

9 Q. -- but if there -- you would like to see some form of  
10 acknowledgment by way of a public apology.

11 A. (Nods.)

12 Q. And if there is to be any financial redress, then that  
13 should be graduated in accordance with the suffering --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- of the individuals.

16 A. Yes. It did cross myself why I am doing this or, you  
17 know, involved in this. I am doing this because I was  
18 there. I suffered. I witnessed what some of the people  
19 would do, and just to stop this happening in the future,  
20 you know, stop any kind of care system being able to  
21 abuse and do what they had, you know, done to young  
22 people, and, like, at the end of the day they destroyed  
23 a lot of people's lives. People shouldn't have to go  
24 through that ever again.

25 Q. Well, HIA421, thank you. That's all that I want to ask

1           you about, but is there anything else that we haven't  
2           covered as we've gone through your evidence --

3    A.   No.

4    Q.   -- about your time in Lissie that you want the Panel to  
5           know about?

6    A.   Just about the staff being, like, violent, like.

7           There's no need for them ones to be trailing kids about  
8           by the hair, arms, you know, twisted up their back or --  
9           there's no need for to do that on a wee child.  A wee  
10          child is just looking for people to care for them, you  
11          know, and look after them, and they didn't do that.  
12          They abused that whole system, you know.

13   Q.   Thank you very much, HIA421.

14   A.   Thank you.

15   Q.   The Panel may have some questions for you.

16                                    Questions from THE PANEL

17   MS DOHERTY:  Thanks very much, HIA421.  That has been really  
18           helpful.  Can I just check: when you talk about staff  
19           being violent and trailing children, was that all staff?  
20           Was that all the nurses that were involved?

21   A.   I just remember, like, it being the adults were very  
22           strict.  They were very cold.  You know, the -- I mean,  
23           they looked unhappy themselves.  I mean, I don't  
24           understand, you know.  I just know that the people who  
25           were looking after me and my brother weren't good

1 people, you know. They were really physical. They were  
2 really rough, you know. There was no warmth. There was  
3 no caring because we were there.

4 Q. Did they actually go to the extent of kind of trailing  
5 you by the arm?

6 A. Physically.

7 Q. Physically. Was that a few nurses or ...?

8 A. All I remember was nurses and like --

9 Q. You don't remember?

10 A. I don't remember. It was just like -- it's like you're  
11 trying to put a face to things, you know. All  
12 I remember is people, big people.

13 Q. Treating you like that?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Do you remember any nurses that were warm to you or  
16 showed you any care or consideration?

17 A. (Shakes head.)

18 Q. No. Okay. In relation to -- just did anybody ever talk  
19 to you about why you were there?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Was there any -- there was no --

22 A. We -- I just remember the day we were taken there. We  
23 went with my mummy and a social worker in a car and  
24 I thought we were going on a trip or something. Next  
25 thing we had this big like building, this big place. It

1 was like a mansion.

2 Q. A mansion.

3 A. You know what I mean? Next thing we were going in and,  
4 you know, we walked up the hall. Next thing we were  
5 guided off by a couple of members of staff and next  
6 thing -- mummy didn't even say "Bye-bye" or nothing.  
7 She just turned and walked back down the hall with the  
8 social worker and went through the doors, and that's the  
9 last I seen of her until whenever she did take me home,  
10 and then, you know, that was it. I didn't understand  
11 why I was there, you know. I didn't know -- well,  
12 I didn't think it was because of my behaviour or  
13 anything. I just didn't know why I was in this place.  
14 "Why am I being left here?"

15 Q. And no explanation?

16 A. No.

17 Q. In relation to -- you talked about, you know, if you  
18 were cheeky, you could be kept in your room --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- all day. Would it have been literally all day?

21 A. It would have been literally the whole day, so it would.

22 Q. What would have happened about food? Would you have  
23 been ...?

24 A. They would bring me -- they would bring food in my room,  
25 but I wouldn't eat it. That's when I dug the heels in.

1 You know, I wouldn't be -- you know, I wasn't having the  
2 food. I wasn't going to eat it. That was my way --  
3 I didn't realise I was punishing myself, but I -- you  
4 know, I was like two fingers to you kind of thing, you  
5 know.

6 Q. Uh-huh. Just my last question. Can you remember how  
7 long you stayed in the room with your brother? Can you  
8 remember, like, in terms of your stay, was it most of  
9 your stay with your brother? Was it -- you know, when  
10 was it decided? Can you remember?

11 A. It might have been most of the time, because he was with  
12 me all the time. Then it got to the stage where he was  
13 doing really bad things to me and really hurting me and,  
14 you know, the day they took him out and put him in that  
15 there mummy strip thing, that was because he gave me  
16 a quare hiding, you know. He was really violent, really  
17 nasty, really -- there was just something not right  
18 about him. He would be, like, sadistic. He would have  
19 maybe pulled your tooth out or kicked your face in, you  
20 know, or, you know, anything that was really, really  
21 evil. I think one day it came to a head and that's why  
22 he had to be removed.

23 Q. After that removal, after the time that he was removed  
24 in the mummy jacket, do you remember if he came back and  
25 you shared a room after that?

1 A. No, he didn't, no.

2 Q. He didn't. So that was the end of it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That was the --

5 A. But the damage had already been done, like. You're  
6 getting beat round the room. You know, anything in the  
7 room he used to give you a going over with, you know.  
8 So they left him in longer than he should have. He  
9 shouldn't have been in a room with me anyway. He should  
10 have been put in a room ...

11 Q. By himself?

12 A. Yes, because he -- because they knew what he was like,  
13 because he was just born evil, like, really bad --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- so he was.

16 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

17 A. No worries.

18 Q. That's been really helpful.

19 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA421, I am sure you will be relieved to  
20 hear that's the last question we have for you, but thank  
21 you very much for coming to speak to us today.

22 A. No problem.

23 (Witness withdrew)

24 MS SMITH: Thank you, Chairman. That concludes today's  
25 evidence.

1 CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will adjourn now and sit again  
2 tomorrow.

3 (11.30 am)

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

5 --ooOoo--

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WITNESS HIA404 (called) .....2  
    Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....2  
    Questions from THE PANEL .....16  
  
WITNESS HIA421 (called) .....21  
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