
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at

Banbridge Court House

Banbridge

on Tuesday, 7th October 2014

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 56)

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

1 Tuesday, 7th October 2014

2 (10.00 am)

3 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we
4 resume this morning can I remind you all to ensure that
5 your mobile phone has been turned off or at least set to
6 mobile -- to silent/vibrate and also to remind everyone
7 that no photography is permitted anywhere on the
8 premises or indeed within the perimeter wall of the
9 premises.

10 Yes, Ms Smith?

11 WITNESS HIA97 (called)

12 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and
13 gentlemen. Today's first witness is HIA97. He is
14 "HIA97". HIA97 has previously spoken to the media
15 earlier this year and he is happy to waive his anonymity
16 that has been afforded by the Inquiry, and he wishes to
17 take the oath before giving evidence, Chairman.

18 WITNESS HIA97 (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

20 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

21 MS SMITH: HIA97, you have given a statement to the Inquiry.

22 Isn't that correct?

23 **A. That is correct.**

24 Q. And that can be found at RUB567. If we could just call
25 that up, please. You should have a copy of it in front

1 of you but, HIA97, what's before you in the document is
2 the redacted statement, and you will see that instead of
3 "Witness Statement of HIA97" and your name it gives your
4 designation there. I'm just going to go to the last
5 page of the statement, if we could, which is 576. You
6 will see, HIA97, there you have signed the statement on
7 6th February 2014. Isn't that correct?

8 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

9 Q. And this is the statement of evidence that you want the
10 Inquiry to consider together with anything you tell us
11 this morning?

12 **A. Yes. That's correct.**

13 Q. And for the benefit of the Panel the response statement
14 is to be found at RUB2038 to 2041 with exhibits from
15 2042 to 2062.

16 There is also a brief statement from the Health &
17 Social Care Board at 8042 to 43, which indicates that
18 they have no documents and that the -- it suggests --
19 they suggest this was a private admission to care.

20 Now if we could just go back to the first page of
21 your statement, which is 567, HIA97 -- HIA97, just one
22 other thing. You produced last night a medical report.
23 Isn't that correct?

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. Now that is being placed in the bundle. It isn't

1 currently in the bundle. It is being Bates numbered
2 this morning, Chairman, and it can be seen at a later
3 date. I am not going to be referring to it today, but
4 just to let the Inquiry know we received that from you
5 last night when you arrived.

6 **A. Okay.**

7 Q. Paragraphs 1 to 3 of your statement set out your family
8 background. At paragraph 2 you talk about a brother.
9 I know that brother is now dead. I am going to use his
10 name, but unless you agree to his name being used
11 outside, it shouldn't -- his name shouldn't be used even
12 though yours can be.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. DL 373 was years younger than you. Isn't that
15 correct?

16 **A. That's correct.**

17 Q. In paragraph 4 you talk a little bit more about him.
18 You went to Rubane in December 1957, and in that
19 paragraph you talk about the Brother who was in charge
20 when you went there, who is given a designation here
21 "BR17", but that was a Brother called BR17. Isn't that
22 correct?

23 **A. That's correct. That was BR17.**

24 Q. You say he went on to become the of
25 a particular school and he is now deceased.

1 You also name another Brother in paragraph 4 as
2 being responsible for setting up the home. That's BR39,
3 who was -- you give a surname to that Brother there,
4 BR39, and you give a surname which you would accept is
5 -- maybe the surname isn't right. Isn't that so?

6 **A. That is correct.**

7 Q. You say that he was responsible for setting up the home
8 and he had come from Milltown, which you describe as
9 a borstal, although having spoken to me last night, you
10 would accept that at this time certainly it was not
11 a borstal but a reformatory school at that time?

12 **A. Okay. Yes.**

13 Q. I know you are going to speak about why you thought it
14 was a borstal. If you want to do that, you can at this
15 stage, HIA97. There were boys who came from there.
16 Isn't that right?

17 **A. Yes, there was boys came from Milltown, and we called it**
18 **Milltown Borstal, but I think in later years you weren't**
19 **allowed to use the name "borstal". The law changed it,**
20 **that it be called a reformatory or training school. I'm**
21 **not sure. You can correct me on that, but in --**

22 CHAIRMAN: I don't think we can expect children to
23 understand the --

24 MS SMITH: The distinction.

25 CHAIRMAN: -- intricacies of the criminal justice system.

1 MS SMITH: But what you told me, HIA97, was that there were
2 boys and you called them the borstal boys really because
3 they come from Milltown. Is that correct?

4 **A. Sometimes they call them the bad boys, but I suppose**
5 **they weren't really bad, but when you're young, you**
6 **don't know any different.**

7 Q. In any event you talk about -- paragraph 4 about --
8 sorry. There were -- I don't know which paragraph.
9 Sorry. At paragraph -- you talk about your DL 373
10 DL 373 He was, as you say, years younger than you.
11 You were aged when you went to Rubane. He came
12 shortly after you. Isn't that correct?

13 **A. He came the last year, 1958.**

14 Q. And what age was he then?

15 **A. He was , going on . He was born on**
16 **I can't remember the year.**

17 Q. And you say that you only saw him in the home whenever
18 he was being punished. Isn't that correct?

19 **A. That's correct. I think they segregated the younger**
20 **boys as well, yes.**

21 Q. You say -- this is -- it is paragraph -- the last part
22 of paragraph 7 -- you say you only ever saw him when he
23 was getting punished and sadly he is now dead, but you
24 visited him when he died in and before he
25 died he told you that he himself had been abused --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- while he was at Rubane House by the Brothers on seven
3 occasions?

4 **A. That's correct, yes.**

5 Q. And he didn't give you any detail about who had abused
6 him?

7 **A. He did -- can I speak?**

8 Q. Yes, of course.

9 **A. He was all wired up in the bed. He was dying of bowel**
10 **cancer, and his wife had left the room with my wife.**
11 **They had gone out for a break, and he asked me to raise**
12 **the bed, because he wanted to use the urine bottle and**
13 **he was all wired up, and he said that he had been**
14 **abused, and what happened was I tipped the bed by**
15 **mistake the wrong way and poured the whole bottle of**
16 **urine over him after the changing his sheets and stuff.**
17 **I thought he would kill me only he was wired up in the**
18 **bed like. He was a big man, 6'4", and then his wife and**
19 **them came back in to change the sheets and stuff. So he**
20 **didn't continue that, like.**

21 Q. So you didn't get the opportunity --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- to get more details from him before he died?

24 **A. No, no, and the first time he was in England -- before**
25 **he died he came over for a year before that, and we**

1 **showed him the video of Rubane House that triggered me**
2 **off into taking this further, and he run out of the room**
3 **crying. He hadn't told his wife about being in Rubane.**

4 Q. In fact, he had pretended that he had been at boarding
5 school. Isn't that right?

6 A. **He told all his affluent friends he had been to**
7 **a boarding school, because she was a professor in the**
8 **British language place in**

9 Q. That was the first time that you knew, in fact, when he
10 told you on his death bed, that he had been abused in
11 Rubane?

12 A. **That's correct. When he was in the house, he knew like**
13 **that I was coming over here trying to get the Inquiry up**
14 **and running with HIA151 and HIA 43 . He**
15 **said, "You're a braver man than me", and I don't know**
16 **what he -- at the time I didn't realise what he meant**
17 **like, you know, but --**

18 Q. You never --

19 A. **-- I didn't feel braver than him.**

20 Q. HIA97, you never found out the details and from what you
21 discussed with me you have been worrying about what
22 might have happened to your brother in Rubane. Isn't
23 that correct?

24 A. **It's been playing on my mind, because when my father**
25 **died when I was 9, he was only and I always kind of**

1 **looked after him before we went in there.**

2 Q. Just take your time. I appreciate -- but what you want
3 the Inquiry to know is that you are here not only to
4 speak about what happened to you but also to speak on
5 behalf of your brother. Isn't that correct?

6 A. **I'm here to tell my story, what happened to me, my
7 truth, and to speak on behalf of my brother, because
8 I feel I wouldn't want that to happen to any other
9 younger kids at that age.**

10 Q. Well, one of the things that you talk about about DL 373
11 in your statement at paragraph 6 is that you say that
12 the Brothers had him washing dishes, and if he broke a
13 dish, you say he lost 6 -- 4 shillings, which is
14 significant, as he only earned 12 old pennies a week.
15 Now can you just explain what you meant by that, HIA97,
16 about the 12 old pennies?

17 A. **When I say 12 old pennies, I believe that was pocket
18 money, and you could spend it in a little kind of tuck
19 shop -- they had a cabinet, a glass cabinet -- if you
20 had any money left after being punished for doing
21 things. If you broke a plate or two plates, you were
22 charged 4 shillings, which in the old money 12 old
23 pennies, and lost your privileges for a month.**

24 They showed a black -- a film every Sunday. I think
25 it was Sunday. It wasn't Saturday. I think it was

1 Sunday evening, and you couldn't watch that. You had to
2 stand in the basement in the corridor, and my brother,
3 he broke a pile of plates, and I was giving out to him
4 for breaking the plates. Now in hindsight I think that
5 was his way of getting to see me, because I was down on
6 the farm separated from the younger children I think
7 with some of the older boys, and I feel bad now, because
8 I feel that he was getting abused and that -- I don't
9 know -- and that's why he was breaking the plates. He
10 broke the lot, like, but we spent a year in that
11 basement.

12 Q. So it wasn't the case that he was being paid for doing
13 this chore of doing the dishes, but if he broke a plate,
14 he was deducted pocket money effectively?

15 A. He was penalised.

16 Q. Yes, and --

17 A. I believe the 12 pennies was a matter of form just.
18 That was -- all the boys got that.

19 Q. You are saying whenever -- as a result of this he was
20 also punished by not being allowed to attend the film
21 show that was taking place?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you went and stood with him and missed out on the
24 film also?

25 A. Yes. So that's why I was giving out to him and now, you

1 **see, I feel guilty about it, but ...**

2 Q. The Order, as you are aware, have given a response
3 statement and they say that the only reason you and your
4 Brother would have been separated was because of the age
5 difference between you.

6 A. **Okay. I accept that, because the older boys wore long
7 trousers even and I wore short trousers.**

8 Q. They think you would have seen him nonetheless at meal
9 times and at play time and at the weekends when the boys
10 mixed together?

11 A. **I don't, because all the time we were standing in that
12 corridor. I don't remember seeing him at the meal
13 times. I mean, maybe the younger children were
14 separated. He mentioned a BR63 or a BR63. I never
15 remember that Brother either. I have no recollection of
16 any Brother, but he must have looked after the young
17 ones.**

18 Q. Apart from DL 373 do you remember any other young boys
19 being in Rubane of that age?

20 A. **No, no, because I only seen him when he was being
21 punished. I think they must have been separate
22 completely to us, you know.**

23 Q. Paragraph 14 of -- sorry. Just one other point. They
24 make the point that if he had been breaking that many
25 dishes, as you suggest that they would have stopped him

1 washing the dishes.

2 A. Well, I only thing I can think of, because we stood for
3 a solid year there, is he broke the whole lot in one go
4 to try and get to see me, you know, or to avoid whatever
5 was happening to him, but that's speculation on my part
6 too. Maybe I shouldn't speculate, but --

7 Q. That is what --

8 A. -- in hindsight I think that's what it -- because when
9 my mum died, he wouldn't even get a priest for her
10 funeral and, you know, his wife was giving out to him,
11 "Why -- why you didn't get the priest?" She said, "You
12 should respect the older people even if you don't
13 believe yourself", and I didn't make the connection.
14 Maybe I am putting two and two together, but I feel
15 that's what was happening to him. The abuse was going
16 on and that was his way of protecting or to see me,
17 like, because we were very close. I used to fight, you
18 know, all his little battles before we went in there,
19 because he was years old and he was when my dad
20 died.

21 Q. HIA97, you talk just about -- going back now to talk a
22 little bit about your time in Rubane, and if we just go
23 to paragraph 14, you talk there about the chores that
24 you had to engage in in the home. You say you used to
25 tie dusters on your feet. You had to wax the floor and

1 you would slide up and down and as punishment when you
2 were cleaning you had to use a toothbrush. Was this on
3 the floors that you had to use the toothbrush?

4 **A. No, round the sinks and taps and things like that.**

5 Q. And you say that DL 373 even cleaned the cooker at home
6 long after he'd left Rubane --

7 **A. That's right.**

8 Q. -- in this fashion. You talk at paragraph 21 about the
9 food that you received in Rubane and you say that you
10 were extremely under-nourished when you left Rubane.
11 What you ate in the morning was watery porridge. In the
12 evening you remember jam and bread. On a Sunday if you
13 weren't in trouble, you got soda bread dipped in
14 dripping and you got a sausage. You talk about the tuck
15 shop, where you could buy things, but you rarely did,
16 because you lost your pocket money as a result of
17 punishments. You can't remember ever eating dinner,
18 although you remember peeling potatoes.

19 Now the Order would say that there was nothing wrong
20 with the food that they were providing, that you had
21 three meals a day, and that the Brothers ate the same
22 food as you did.

23 **A. I wouldn't think that, because even before I went in**
24 **there it was just after the war. There was rationing at**
25 **times. My mother had rationing coupons when we went in**

1 there. There was plenty of potatoes, because we were
2 out working on the farms picking them, but all
3 I remember was salty porridge like. I couldn't take it
4 when I came out of the home. I never wanted to see
5 porridge again, because in the South they take it with
6 sugar, but -- and I just remember bread and jam in the
7 evening. After the 6 o'clock Angelus we would have the
8 bread and jam and watch Six-Five Special that was on at
9 the time, but I don't remember any dinners, but
10 I remember it was a treat to get the sausage on a Sunday
11 with the soda bread dipped in dripping and, you know,
12 that was it really.

13 Q. You say you, in fact, had treatment had you eventually
14 left Rubane, as you say, for your malnutrition?

15 A. I did. I went to Dr Healey in Hornsey Road in North
16 London. He was a Kerry man, and he thought I'd broken
17 appendix, because I was vomiting up green bile. He got
18 me into the Royal Northern Hospital -- it's knocked down
19 now -- in Holloway Road. He thought I had appendix, but
20 it was bowel problems I had. Then he put me into
21 a hostel -- a home -- a hospital up as I thought at
22 Manor House, but I think it was probably St. Ann's
23 Hospital in Tottenham. That would be just down the road
24 from Manor House, and I think it was an hospital that
25 used to take TB patients, because I had TB afterwards as

1 **well, but that is where I ended up.**

2 Q. If we can just go back to paragraph 5 of your statement,
3 which is at 568, in paragraph 5 you talk here and again
4 in paragraph 9 of farm work, that you said that you had
5 to work 250 acres of land and you had to do it by hand.
6 The day started very early. You got up at 6.00 am, went
7 to mass every day. You had to clean your dormitories
8 and again you talk about being split up from your
9 brother and you, in fact, lived at this stage -- can I
10 just pause there and maybe move to paragraph 9, please,
11 to just to deal completely with the issue of farm work
12 that you talk about?

13 You say that you were -- well, you recall working
14 for local farmers and being paid 12 old pennies. When
15 you say that, "They paid us 12 old pennies", you are not
16 talking about the farmers there?

17 A. **No. What I think is I am getting confused here, because**
18 **we didn't get paid 12 old pennies. That was our pocket**
19 **money in the home, but what I think was hearing the**
20 **other boys saying we are working for farmers, well,**
21 **I can't see that. In hindsight I am thinking how could**
22 **we be working for other farmers if there was 250 acres?**
23 **There was only a few of us there. We had enough to look**
24 **after, you know, but I don't know actually who owned the**
25 **fields that we were working in.**

1 Q. You certainly remember working on the farm and
2 (inaudible) --

3 **A. On the farm, because I lived down on the farm. I also**
4 **attended beet on my hands and knees. I know one field**
5 **was 50 acres long I believe.**

6 Q. So the Order would say that the only farm work that the
7 boys were expected to do was at potato harvest time for
8 about two weeks?

9 **A. No, I never remember any schooling there. I just**
10 **remember being down on the farm, but they said they used**
11 **to put the wet the boys -- the boys that used to wet the**
12 **beds, they put them down on the farm.**

13 Q. Going back to paragraph 5, you talk about the fact that
14 you were one of -- they used to put, as you say, the
15 lads down there who wet the bed. That was in the
16 farmhouse?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. And that's where you would have slept?

19 **A. In the farmhouse.**

20 Q. You think you were wetting yourself with fear. You talk
21 about a Brother there, BR15, who -- again these names
22 are not to be used outside of this room obviously, HIA97
23 --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- but to make it easier for you BR15 is BR15. You

1 describe him as the music teacher. The Brothers would
2 say that, in fact, he was not the music teacher.
3 Someone else taught music.

4 A. I could play music before I went into, and all my uncles
5 played music, and it was -- can I mention his name?

6 Q. Yes?

7 A. It was BR15, and as far as I know I think he was born in
8 England of Irish descent, and he was a man
9 , and they had -- they had a courtyard --
10 they had a big house that we used to go up the steps
11 into a little room and he used to take us. We just had
12 mouth organs in those days. I could play the mouth
13 organ before I went in there, because my grandfather
14 used to sell them in the shop. He definitely taught the
15 music, and he also took us for boxing in the school, and
16 he used to put the bigger boys from Milltown in against
17 -- in the school. So I definitely know BR15, and he
18 stayed on the farmhouse, because he used to lock up
19 there at night.

20 Q. You say that there was another Brother, BR13, who also
21 stayed in the farmhouse. Is that correct?

22 A. That's correct. BR13. He was a nice man. He used to
23 take us down to Strangford Lough before we built the
24 swimming pool and then there was a break to get out,
25 like. That was a bit of enjoyment we had at that time

1 going to that.

2 Q. I mean, the Order would say that they don't believe that
3 either BR13 or the next Brother you name as the farm
4 manager, BR12, stayed in that farmhouse accommodation.

5 A. I never said that BR12 stayed in the farmhouse although
6 he was the farm manager. I can definitely vouch for the
7 fact that BR13 stayed there, because do you remember
8 I described his room when a boy opened the wardrobe like
9 that?

10 Q. You told me something about --

11 A. What we seen there.

12 Q. -- you found something in BR13's wardrobe.

13 A. Should I say it? It was Bushmills whiskey bottles and
14 they were on the top of the wardrobe. BR13, like, he
15 was a nice man. I don't know if maybe he was jolly with
16 the drink, like. I am a former alcoholic myself like,
17 you know. He was okay like, you know, although, being
18 honest with you, he used to carry a bag of sweets when
19 we were going down to Strangford Lough. It seemed nice
20 enough, but then I got worried then when I seen about
21 Father Brendan Smyth going round Belfast with a bag of
22 sweets. I thought was he grooming? You see, you
23 imagine all sorts of things when you see the newspaper
24 things, but really I think he was a decent enough man,
25 BR13, but he lived in the farm and BR15. Whether BR12

1 lived there, I don't know where he slept.

2 Q. But you remember BR12 as the farm manager?

3 A. Yes. I never remember him wearing a . He just
4 wore a and a , you know, and He
5 was a man like, you know.

6 Q. You say that there were only three or four boys stayed
7 there. The Order would say that there was more likely
8 fifteen to twenty boys who would have stayed in the
9 farmhouse?

10 A. Well, I don't remember fifteen boys, because I don't
11 think it would have been big enough in that time, and
12 I went down to visit it with HIA 43 about
13 three -- would it be three years ago maybe when I first
14 come to Belfast. She took me down to see it and it was
15 all changed and they changed the doorway into the
16 farmhouse. It was round another side. The woman was
17 there, her daughter living, and she took us in for tea,
18 like, downstairs, and, I mean, she showed me round the
19 farm, but I couldn't see it holding that many boys.

20 I can only remember -- I remember when BR15 was
21 punishing us kneeling all night in the hallway. There
22 was four of us I think kneeling down, but that's all
23 I can remember.

24 I remember a SND475, but I knew him as SND475, but
25 he had a room of his own I think. As regards -- I can't

1 remember who was sleeping in the room, you know.

2 I blocked a lot of that out. I don't know, but there
3 was dormitories in the big house.

4 Q. Yes. You talk -- certainly there were no chalets at
5 Rubane in your day. Isn't that correct?

6 A. No, because it was a shock to me when I went down.

7 I couldn't recognise Rubane. It was a bed and
8 breakfast. It was all painted white. In my days it was
9 just like stone, like granite. You know, it was -- the
10 farm was the same, the old outhouse buildings. There
11 was an archway going down into the farm with a weather
12 vane over it, but it just -- the bit that was left was
13 where we done the music up. It was still stone, the
14 steps up to this. That was on the corner of the
15 basketball place, the courtyard between the swimming
16 pool and the big house and the school was to the right.

17 Q. Just going back to one other point about the changes in
18 Rubane, you said in your statement there that after your
19 mother died, DL 373 your brother, had tried to destroy
20 any letters and things that she had in respect of your
21 time in Rubane.

22 A. Yes. Because I was living in North London and she was
23 living -- she fell down the stairs and got killed. She
24 was living in Dagenham. He came from and he got
25 to the house before me. When I went out, he had

1 a bonfire going in the backyard. I said, "What are you
2 doing?" I can only think he was trying to destroy
3 everything that reminded him of Rubane, and I managed to
4 get that letter. I would never be sitting here today
5 only I found the letter from BR2 and I got salvage left
6 from the fire and I managed to salvage I think it is two
7 pages of a letter we wrote about our Christmas in
8 with my grandad. That is in County
9 I didn't get the end of the letter, but I -- that's all
10 I got, and if I didn't have that, they were trying to
11 say they had no records of me until I had the letter
12 from the parish priest that wrote to BR2. He was
13 a different Brother. He wasn't there in my time. He
14 was a principal when my Brother was getting married in
15 I think it was '73 or '74, and he wrote back to me and
16 he said yes, my DL 373 was there, because that
17 was --

18 Q. I am just going to call that letter up now, HIA97.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. But just so that the Panel know there are some documents
21 you brought, including the pages of the letter that you
22 salvaged, and they can be found in the bundle at 20083
23 to 20098, but if we could just look at one document, and
24 this is the letter you are saying -- you are talking
25 about, which is RUB20087. Now having spoken to me, you

1 have explained this is a letter that was written to a
2 Father Kelly here and we see it is dated -- it is
3 addressed to the De La Salle on 2nd May 1973. You have
4 explained to me Father Kelly would have been the parish
5 priest of your parish in England.

6 **A. Yes, that's right.**

7 Q. But your mother had written looking for a confirmation
8 certificate so that your DL 373 could get
9 married.

10 **A. (Inaudible.)**

11 Q. If we can just read the letter, it says:

12 "Thank you for your letter re ...",

13 and DL 373 name is there:

14 "I contacted DL454, our local parish priest, and
15 sure enough his name was in the file for 1958. I have
16 enclosed the certificate as requested.

17 You can tell DL 373 the home has changed quite a bit
18 since he was here. It was a rather primitive sort of
19 establishment in those days. Now it is more like
20 Butlins.

21 With best wishes, BR2."

22 There is a photograph attached of four boys, one of
23 whom we assume was DL 373

24 **A. No, no, DL 373 wasn't in that photo.**

25 Q. He wasn't in the photograph.

1 A. I'm in the photo and a boy called DL 382 since
2 then I was told the boy on the right-hand side was ^{HIA 222}
3 HIA 222 who I tried to see in Belfast. HIA 43
4 HIA 43 brought me to see him, but he'd been in a fire
5 in the Morning Star hostel, and he wasn't in a very good
6 condition. He was asleep. So I never went in to see
7 him. My wife went in with HIA 43. To be honest with
8 you, he had taken to the drink, probably from the fire
9 and whatever happened to him. There was letters piled
10 up behind the door. So I just pinned the photo of my
11 brother -- of me I mean on the door and I left.
12 I couldn't go into the room, and the other boy on the
13 left -- on the extreme left, I don't know who he is.
14 I can't place him. I am hoping somebody will jog my
15 memory and identify him. As you can see in that photo
16 DL 382 is wearing long trousers because he is older than
17 me and the other boy. So the younger boys wore the
18 short trousers. That's what I was wearing when I left
19 the home, short trousers.

20 Q. I mean, it is unfortunate that your face has been
21 blocked out of this but we can see the --

22 A. I have a photo in my bag if anybody needs to see it.

23 Q. If you have it there, that would be --

24 A. Oh, no. It is out -- it is in the office.

25 Q. Don't worry about that. We can look at it later, but

1 just which pair of legs, if I can ask, are yours?

2 **A. I am second from the right-hand side in the photo. Yes,**
3 **just about there.**

4 Q. The two boys in long trousers they are DL 382 ?

5 **A. DL 382 is to the right -- no, second from the**
6 **left. That's DL 382**

7 Q. And the boy ^{HIA 222} that you were talking about?

8 **A. HIA 222 is in the short pants on the very end.**

9 Q. So you don't know who the tallest boy is?

10 **A. The tallest boy I don't know. I can't place him, but**
11 **I must have known him in them days, because we're in**
12 **that photo.**

13 Q. Do you remember the photograph being taken?

14 **A. No, but that was one of the things that was salvaged**
15 **with the two letters.**

16 Q. And just to complete the -- if we just scroll down to
17 the next page, there is a PS detail from BR2, which
18 says:

19 "BR12, who DL 373 would have know here, died just
20 before Christmas. BR17, who was probably Superior when
21 DL 373 and his brother were here, is now headmaster in
22 ."

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

24 Q. That was the letter that BR2 wrote when your mother
25 asked the parish priest to get his confirmation --

1 **A. Confirmation papers or holy communication papers to**
2 **prove he'd been a practising Catholic maybe or something**
3 **to get married. I don't know the procedure like.**

4 **Q. Just coming back then to your own statement, did you**
5 **ever remember anybody coming to inspect Rubane when you**
6 **were there? Do you ever remember any inspections**
7 **happening?**

8 **A. No, I don't, because I was mainly down on the farm and**
9 **the only time there might have been people come was on**
10 **a feast day and I presume it was just family visiting**
11 **maybe. I don't know.**

12 **Q. And do you remember any lay workers being there when you**
13 **were there?**

14 **A. I never remember any lay workers in my time and most of**
15 **the work that we done was by hand, and BR12 had**
16 **a tractor like. That was the only bit of machinery I**
17 **can remember like, and the thing they pull behind**
18 **I think to open up the drills or something.**

19 **Q. What about -- you were at school there in Rubane. There**
20 **was a school there.**

21 **A. There was a school there, but I never remember being in**
22 **the school. That's the funny thing. I can remember**
23 **before I went I had been in Clounagh School in Armagh**
24 **and all the teachers' names, all the pupils' names, the**
25 **houses surrounding it, even the surroundings, but there**

1 I can't. The only thing I remember is there was
2 a snooker table at the back of the school where boys
3 played a game called cricket and snooker and billiards,
4 and that's where the boxing was where BR15 put us
5 against the bigger boys.

6 Q. You do -- at one stage you did say in paragraph 13 --
7 you talked about being humiliated because of your
8 accent. If we can just go back to the statement at 571,
9 please, you talk about being humiliated because of your
10 accent when you were at school. You weren't talking
11 about school in Rubane. Isn't that clear?

12 A. I want to clarify this. I was born in [REDACTED] in
13 [REDACTED] it says at the beginning of the
14 statement. When I come to the North of Ireland, I had
15 [REDACTED], and I got a hiding in [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]. My accent probably by the
17 time I got to Rubane -- I come to Ireland when I was 5.
18 I would have been 12, wasn't it, when I went into
19 Rubane. So my accent -- I may have picked up a Northern
20 accent, because when I went to England at 14, I was sent
21 back to school for a year, because the school leaving
22 age in England was 15 and in the South it was 14, and
23 I got a hiding for having a North of Ireland accent, but
24 since then over the years my accent is changing, because
25 all my people are from the South of Ireland and I worked

1 in Dublin, as I said, from '61 to '66, and I worked with
2 Connemara men, who taught me Gaelic. So my accent has
3 changed a bit, you know.

4 Q. The complaint that you make about being humiliated at
5 school did not relate to Rubane. Isn't that correct,
6 HIA97?

7 A. I believe my accent would have been sufficiently changed
8 by the time I got to Rubane. So I didn't get no thump
9 for my accent.

10 Q. While you were in Rubane do you ever remember any
11 contact -- were there any visits with your mother or
12 family members visiting?

13 A. My mother went to as soon as she put my brother
14 in, because she hadn't got a work permit when my father
15 died. If you're from the South of Ireland, you had to
16 have a work permit. She was for the
17 in but you had to have a work permit in the
18 '50s. You could work as a actor with the Northern
19 Lights. She got a half widow's pension because my dad
20 died in the South of Ireland. So she went to
21 and then sent for us in '59.

22 But my grandad called with my aunts. They used to
23 drive him. He didn't drive. Two of my aunts, they went
24 everywhere with him. They came to Rubane, but I think
25 it might have been to collect me to take me down to

1 **for that Christmas in where they were**
2 **from.**

3 Q. You talked about the letter, the two pages of the letter
4 --

5 A. **In the letter it gives the date when that particular**
6 **Christmas -- I can't remember --**

7 Q. I am not going to call that up, but it is the two pages
8 of the letter that --

9 A. **That would have been the time I think when my grandad**
10 **came.**

11 Q. The two pages are in that bundle of papers that you
12 brought to the Inquiry.

13 A. **That's right.**

14 Q. The Panel can see there there was contact with your
15 grandfather.

16 A. **Yes.**

17 Q. Do you ever remember being medically examined when you
18 were in Rubane?

19 A. **No, I never remember being medically examined, but**
20 **before I went to Rubane -- you see, there is a**
21 **controversy. I don't know who put me there, but I was**
22 **taken to Armagh to see a psychiatrist or Social Service,**
23 **and they said I was highly strung, because I was wanting**
24 **everything that the other kids had, and I was mitching**
25 **school, because my mum couldn't provide for us, because**

1 she was getting a half widow's pension, because my dad
2 died in the South of Ireland. She had a little job,
3 job, at . She got for
4 not having a although she made the
5 in the war.

6 Q. You remember having seen somebody either medical or
7 psychiatric before you went to Rubane?

8 A. I seen a psych... -- there was some sort of psychiatrist
9 or social workers or something.

10 Q. Do you ever remember an annual medical examination
11 carried out by the local GP in Rubane?

12 A. No, never. I remember the in . That was
13 our doctor in , but I don't remember that, like,
14 you know.

15 Q. Just can we ask --

16 A. I thought I was sent there because I was mitching school
17 maybe or was a handful to my mother.

18 Q. Can I just ask you about -- I am going to come on now to
19 deal with specific allegations that you make about your
20 time in Rubane other than the general matters we have
21 talked about, but you did talk about going to Strangford
22 Lough with BR13, for example. Were there good times
23 when you were there?

24 A. Well, that was the good times, because we were 24/7 in
25 the home or on the farm working, and that was a break to

1 go down to Strangford Lough, but never I had seen the
2 town at Kircubbin, because we went across the fields to
3 it, and then they made us build a swimming pool.
4 I think there was a second swimming pool maybe later on,
5 but we dug the first swimming pool there. So that
6 finished all that out and going down there. So that
7 pleasure was taken away from us.

8 Q. The Order would say that BR13 did take boys swimming but
9 he also took them into Kircubbin.

10 A. No, I was never in Kircubbin.

11 Q. You talked about playing the harmonica. Was there
12 a band in Rubane you took part in?

13 A. Well, just in that room upstairs we played. I never
14 remember playing in public as such, but there was a few
15 of us in that little room. I think it would have held
16 about five or six boys maybe. It was very, very tiny.
17 I think they used it as a clothing store afterwards. It
18 was just like a kind of an attic on top of a shed, like
19 a small little cubbyhole of a place.

20 Q. The Order would also --

21 A. I supplied a photo showing the steps up to it and that
22 to the Inquiry team --

23 Q. That's in --

24 A. -- and exactly where it was. I was just playing the
25 mouth organ there, but I never learned to read music,

1 because I could play by ear. I don't know if I remember
2 him teaching us by music as such, but years afterwards
3 I played in bands in England and had my own band, but
4 I never could read music, but I just had the gift,
5 because I suppose it is in the family. My uncles had a
6 show band, you know, and stuff like that.

7 Q. HIA97, just to be clear, the Order -- you talked about
8 BR15 teaching the music. The Order would say it was
9 actually BR17 and not BR15 who took the music.

10 A. No. BR15. BR17 wouldn't have

11 BR 15 was a man. You have
12 would have had to I think in it.

13 Q. Then if we could just go to paragraph 9 of your
14 statement, in paragraph 9 you say that you were referred
15 to by numbers in the home and they took away your
16 identity. The Order would say numbers were only ever
17 used for the laundry, just basically to keep track of
18 the laundry and which boy needed the shirts. If they
19 were handing back a shirt to you, they would say,
20 "Number 9, here is your shirt". Is there anything you
21 want to say about that?

22 A. Well, I feel that Brother -- this BR15, you see --

23 I think there was probably two Brother [name redacted],
24 the BR15 I am on about teaching the music and the BR60
25 that came down from Milltown, but I feel he ran it like

1 Milltown and that we had numbers in the early days,
2 because I could remember all the boys going to school
3 with me, the postmaster's house across from the school
4 in Clounagh School, but I couldn't remember any of the
5 names only the Brothers' names and DL 382 . I had
6 even forgotten HIA 222 name only HIA 43
7 HIA 43 found out through -- I think it was HIA 59
8 found out who HIA 222 was in the photo, but
9 I~couldn't -- and that boy SND475 I call him, SND475,
10 and the boy from borstal -- I call it Milltown --

11 . I don't know if that was his first time or his
12 surname. That's the only names.

13 That is why I have been going for counselling for
14 a year to a woman from County Antrim in London. She has
15 been taking me for a year to try to unlock my mind,
16 because I am puzzled how I can remember every detail in
17 Clounagh School before I went there and I can't remember
18 a thing about the boys how -- you know ...

19 Q. The names of the boys?

20 A. Names I can't, but I accept there was numbers on the
21 laundry, yes, definitely.

22 Q. Well, you talk in paragraph 9 -- you complain that BR12,
23 who was the farm manager -- you describe him as a brutal
24 man. You say:

25 "He would lash out at you or kick you with his fist

1 or boot for no reason. He would drive the tractor
2 towards you and push you up against the electric fence.
3 I remember I used to wake up at night after nightmares
4 that he was going to run me down with the tractor."

5 Now the Order would say that they are surprised by
6 these allegations against BR12 and they don't believe he
7 would have driven a tractor towards you in malice.

8 **A. I would put it to you these Brothers nowadays weren't**
9 **probably -- weren't even born probably when I was in**
10 **there. This is my story and I can say it like it is.**
11 **I~have been told since even that he was a man.**
12 **That surprised me, because my mother being from**
13 **, I'm saying to myself, "Why did he treat us**
14 **that way?", but he was a brutal man. He would hit you**
15 **with the open fist and everything. He used to -- like**
16 **as if he was rounding you up like cattle, pushing me**
17 **towards this electric fence. It had a single wire**
18 **electric fence. He seemed to get great delight in just**
19 **pushing me up against it getting shocked.**

20 **Q. In paragraph 7, if we could just scroll back up to that,**
21 **you make an allegation about another Brother, you say**
22 **BR17, who was the head principal, and he used to sit**
23 **young boys on his knee whilst watching television and do**
24 **inappropriate things to them.**

25 **A. No, not television. The film they showed on a Sunday.**

1 I think it was Sunday night.

2 Q. And you say that you think that's probably what he was
3 doing to your brother. Now can I just explore that with
4 you a little bit, HIA97?

5 A. Yes. Of course, yes.

6 Q. You are saying this and I just want know how you now
7 about this or why you are saying -- making this
8 allegation. Did ever happen to you, first of all?

9 A. No, it didn't happen to me, because I was 12 -- well,
10 what was I? 12, going 14, but --

11 Q. You have made this allegation that this man was doing
12 this to other boys while watching the film. How do you
13 know that?

14 A. Because when we were starting SAVIA, we met some of the
15 lads from Rubane at the meetings, you know, and they
16 said about it, but as regards like seeing what was going
17 on, the lights was always turned out. When they turned
18 on the projector, the lights was out. So I couldn't see
19 what happened to them boys.

20 Q. But having -- so correct me if I am wrong --

21 A. And I presume -- well, I know it is wrong of me to
22 presume, but putting two and two together, why my
23 brother was so adamant he didn't want a priest at my
24 mother's funeral, I feel he was one of the youngest
25 there. So it was highly probable he was the young boy

1 **sitting on BR17's lap.**

2 Q. I just want to be clear, HIA97, that I am not putting
3 words into your mouth.

4 **A. I am not trying to --**

5 Q. Correct me if I have got this wrong, but what you are
6 saying is that this is something that you have come to
7 consider after having heard other people's accounts of
8 what happened to them during these film nights. Is that
9 correct?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. And you believe that your brother might have been one of
12 those boys, but this is not something that you were
13 aware of during your time in Rubane?

14 **A. No, no.**

15 Q. At paragraph 10 you make a complaint about you remember
16 getting -- are you okay?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You remember getting beatings for wetting the bed?

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. And you talk about BR15 and BR17 both hitting you for
21 wetting the bed?

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

23 Q. And you say:

24 "They both carried a single and double strap with
25 lead weights on them which they used to beat us."

1 **A. I need to correct that. The straps had coins in them or**
2 **lead weights. It wasn't on the outside of the straps.**

3 Q. Where were these coins or lead weights then?

4 **A. It was traditional to show them into the leather belts**
5 **to put greater effect.**

6 Q. You recall one night that you were made to kneel the
7 whole night through to the next morning, and that was
8 BR15 who made you do that.

9 **A. BR15, yes.**

10 Q. You describe him as a very vicious man, that he would
11 hit you with a large bunch of keys. You say you have to
12 wear a hearing aid in your right ear and you know your
13 hearing difficulties were caused by the Brothers hitting
14 you around your ears so severely.

15 Now if I can just pause there and say that the Order
16 would accept that these two Brothers that you name in
17 this paragraph were, as they put it, overly physical
18 with boys. So they would accept that they have
19 physically struck boys, although they don't agree the
20 details about the strap. They just dispute that aspect
21 of it.

22 **A. They weren't there, but I remember a funny situation.**
23 **I have a solicitor called Kieran McAteer. They were**
24 **interviewing me with a younger barrister called Philip**
25 **McAteer and Michael Sitt. The younger barrister didn't**

1 know anything about corporal punishment and my solicitor
2 says, "I remember being in Violet Hill at the Christian
3 Brothers in Newry" and he said, "We had the leather
4 strap there", and he described the strap down to a tee,
5 the beatings he got, my own solicitor, off the Christian
6 Brothers in Newry. So the younger barrister was a bit
7 taken aback, like. Michael Sitt was smiling, because he
8 remembered the days of corporal punishment.

9 They were well-known for it, because before I went
10 into Rubane, the local of ,
11 , he got for
12 called
13 from with the
14 in it and suspended him. So I was no
15 stranger to kind of violence going in there. Maybe
16 that's why it was kind of acceptable, because I didn't
17 know any difference. The school education system was
18 a lot different in the '50s to what it is nowadays.

19 Q. You talk then at paragraph 10 also about another
20 Brother, the same Brother, one of the same Brothers,
21 BR17. You say that he split a cane in four and he often
22 hit you with that. You say you have a scar remaining on
23 the side of your right hand:

24 "... where he hit me once."

25 It was never stitched and you never received any

1 medical treatment following any of the beatings. You
2 have certainly brought along a medical report to us
3 yesterday --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- describing that scar on your hand, and the Panel can
6 look at it, but it is a scar that's clearly visible --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and perhaps you would just like to just point out
9 where you are talking about there.

10 **A. There is it there.**

11 Q. And you say that was as a result of the incident
12 involving BR17.

13 **A. It was, yes. BR17, yes.**

14 Q. Excuse me. Just for completeness it is a report of a
15 Dr Fogarty, which we'll look at again.

16 You do say that in that -- just again for
17 completeness, the Order would say that BR17 was not
18 moved on because of any controversy at the time. He was
19 moved because he had come to the end of his six-year
20 stint as Head Brother.

21 **A. Could I say something there? When I was phoning up
22 looking for my records, HIA 43 gave me the
23 phone number for St. Pat's on the Glen Road. They had
24 the records at the time I think, not Joe Napier.
25 I phoned up and I spoke to a man. I think his name was**

1 Liam. I have it somewhere wrote in my notes. He said,
2 "Certainly I will have a look and see if your records is
3 there". He went off and he looked, and then when
4 I asked him about my brother's, then he said he couldn't
5 get it. He said -- I think he said they might have been
6 sent to (inaudible), but what he said was he was taught
7 by BR17. His conversation with me was in Downpatrick,
8 and he said that BR17 was a strict -- I can't pronounce
9 the word -- disciplitarian (sic).

10 Q. Disciplinarian.

11 A. Disciplinarian. He said he was shipped out to ,
12 and he said the Brothers seaved a high (sic) -- this is
13 between ourselves -- the Brothers heaved a sigh of
14 relief when he was set out there. So I then -- I became
15 obsessed looking on the internet trying to find out
16 where this BR17 went to to see if he had abused
17 out there --

18 Q. So --

19 A. -- and then last week I discovered he had been sent to
20 So that was borne out, like.

21 Q. HIA97, correct me if I am wrong here, but are you saying
22 that, you know, when you say in your statement about
23 there being some controversy over his move, that was as
24 a result of what you had been told by the man in St.
25 Pat's?

1 **A.** In St. Pat's. Well, according to the newspapers --
2 I know I shouldn't go by the papers -- apparently he was
3 abusing five years before I went into Rubane. He abused
4 for twenty years it said in the papers. Maybe that's
5 hearsay from newspaper reporters since -- you know,
6 making a big story out of things, but everything was
7 borne out, what I said about him going to , like,
8 but maybe he was moved on after his term of office,
9 like, at Rubane, because they move priests from parish
10 to parish after so many years, but sometimes I think
11 it's to cover up things, but I'd say, like, when he went
12 to , he got more exposed, because you
13 wouldn't be in there 24/7 and children would be going
14 home to their parents and then something must have
15 filtered back to the Order that they shifted him to
16 .

17 **Q.** If we could just look then -- move on and talk about
18 another Brother. This is at paragraph 12. Now you
19 describe this Brother and you name him here. He is
20 given the designation BR25. The word -- the name you
21 have given to him is BR25.

22 **A.** **Yes.**

23 **Q.** You describe him as being from a particular county in
24 Ireland, taking the lads for Gaelic and hurling.

25 **A.** **That's right.**

1 Q. And I know you talk about him again later in your
2 statement about whenever you had left Rubane and were
3 working for in coming across this man.
4 I just want to say that you have described him as BR25,
5 but the Order are quite content that the man that you
6 have described was, in fact, BR14.

7 A. Well, there's a strange story about this, because I kept
8 talking about BR25 when we were at the meetings in
9 Belfast. Boys were saying BR14, and for a while I knew
10 that there was the known to anybody
11 familiar with him -- his name was spelt and
12 I thought that was him. Then, thinking back then,
13 I thought this was a nickname on him, that they were
14 calling him BR14 because he used to
15 and the boys in the shower. That I thought
16 was a nickname, BR15, but I still maintain his name was
17 BR25 and that he came from .

18 I told the Inquiry at the very beginning before it
19 ever came out about him working in about I am
20 going to work one morning in . He could have been
21 there when I was working, because I found out now from
22 yesterday he was there in . I could have passed him
23 and didn't see him, but I met him this morning and
24 I said, "Hello, BR25". I didn't say, "Hello, BR14".
25 I am adamant about that, and he run away from me. He

1 says, "You don't know me" and he run. You'd think I was
2 a Nazi hunter after him. He just ran because I was
3 a bit bigger than -- you know. This was like in
4 and I left that next day and I packed in that job.

5 I bought a bag of drink that night. I was a Pioneer
6 up to then. I bought a bag of cider. I was at a
7 ceilidh in the town, Salthill in Dublin. I gave away
8 the drink, because I was still worried about taking the
9 pledge for life. I suppose I still had a fear of hell
10 and damnation. So I gave the cider away, but I packed
11 in the job and came to England. Never went back to
12 Ireland after that. '66 I went. So I have been back in
13 England since then, and I took to the drink then, but it
14 was BR25 I knew him as.

15 Q. You still remember the name BR25.

16 A. Boys are saying BR14, but I didn't know if that is
17 a nickname, and I didn't know his surname. I just knew
18 that he was from County and I think he had kind
19 of -- I think it was hair or hair, you
20 know.

21 Q. But you would accept -- if the Order say that the man
22 you are describing was, in fact, BR14, you would accept
23 that you might be wrong about the name?

24 A. Well, I don't know, because they are all called after
25 saints and I don't know if there is a Saint [name

1 redacted] but there's definitely a Saint [name
2 redacted], you know, because I have a cousin a nun and
3 she is called Sister , but her name before
4 she went into the convent was . So I think
5 they all adopted religious names. I don't know why I am
6 saying it, because according to other lads BR14 he was
7 called, but I still think that's a nickname on him.
8 I still think his proper name is BR25. That was his
9 name in the Order. Maybe his name was [name redacted]
10 before he join the brotherhood. So they are using the
11 name he was working under in , but I am sure
12 they can check the insurance records and they can check
13 I was working there at that time.

14 Q. Well, in any event whatever his actual name is or was,
15 in paragraph 12 what you said that he did to you is
16 that -- how you talk about him is you say he never had
17 a hurley stick out of his hand, and even when we were in
18 the showers, he would be hitting you with it on the
19 ankles and elsewhere. He hit you on the left knee with
20 the hurley stick and you still have a scar there from
21 this injury. I can tell the Panel that is recorded in
22 the medical that you gave us last night.

23 "He hit me on the head once with a hurley stick and
24 I had to get stitches in the wound at Newtownards
25 Hospital. At the time the hurley sticks were reinforced

1 with three strips of metal at the head of the stick to
2 strengthen them. So it made the impact even more
3 severe."

4 As you say:

5 "These metal strips are no longer allowed."

6 You describe him as always grabbing you by the
7 testicles when you were in the shower. At the time you
8 made nothing of it, but looking back now, you know that
9 you ended up with a drink problem because of this. You
10 talked to a counsellor about it and --

11 **A. Well, there's more to it than that, if I can say**
12 **something. Looking back now, if you grabbed a woman,**
13 **you know, I think it would be classified as sexual**
14 **assault, but -- I am not blaming BR25, but in 1973 I had**
15 **my right testicle removed in London. I got cancer.**
16 **I am not saying he caused it, but I don't think it**
17 **helped.**

18 **Q.** Well, one of the things the Order would say is that, and
19 as you rightly say, these strips are no longer on the
20 hurley sticks --

21 **A. To stop them splitting.**

22 **Q.** -- and that, you know, injuries may have happened --
23 they are not saying in this particular instance -- but
24 injuries may have happened because boys did not wear
25 helmets or were not protected when they were playing

1 hurley with these sticks. Would you accept that?

2 **A. No, because it wasn't on the playing field that I got**
3 **hit. I was hit on the basketball -- in the courtyard in**
4 **the basketball from behind, knocked down on the playing**
5 **field. We were hitting the ball, soft ball up against**
6 **the wall, because the ball that you use on the field is**
7 **a sliotar they call it. It is a leather ball. It's**
8 **a hard ball. We were banging the ball up against the**
9 **wall and I got struck.**

10 My solicitor tried to investigate Newtownards
11 Hospital and he only investigated one year. He didn't
12 look into the two years, and I pointed out to Kieran
13 McAteer and he thinks there might have been another
14 hospital before the present-day Newtownards Hospital.

15 **Q.** Well, turning to something else that you talked about in
16 paragraph -- sorry. Just one of the things -- you talk
17 about being -- your hand being split and we talked about
18 this last night. You talk about this in paragraph 10 in
19 your statement, and I just want to clarify this so that
20 the Inquiry know what we are talking about. You
21 describe it, how BR17 hit you with this split cane
22 often, and that you have a scar on your right hand where
23 he hit you with it once.

24 If we can just go to paragraph 13, in that you say
25 that:

1 "BR17 split my hand open with a cane that he had cut
2 the end of so that it had four splits at the end and
3 hurt you when he hit you. It was never sewn up. I just
4 tied it up. You would pull your hand back when he tried
5 to hit you, and the more you pulled it back, the more he
6 hit you. I think he got a kick out of it. I never
7 remember a doctor or nurse in the home."

8 Now if I can just pause there, HIA97, we discussed
9 this. This is the same incident that resulted in that
10 scar to the hand. It was once that your hand was cut so
11 badly. Isn't that correct?

12 **A. Once that was cut and it was never stitched. When I got**
13 **hit with the hurley stick, my head was stitched. I was**
14 **taken to Newtownards Hospital, but that was never**
15 **stitched up.**

16 Q. But just to be clear, we are not talking about two
17 different incidents; it's the one --

18 **A. No, 13 and 10 should be linked together, because that**
19 **was confusing me.**

20 Q. And then just moving on to paragraph 17 -- if we just
21 pause before that at 16 there, this is about -- you talk
22 about some boys running away. You talk about the
23 location of Rubane with the lough on one side and the
24 sea, Irish Sea on the other, and you talk about boys who
25 tried to escape. You can't remember who they were, but

1 when they were caught, they shaved their hair off and
2 they got a terrible beating as punishment. You say it
3 was probably this particular Brother who shaved off the
4 hair, as he was responsible. He was effectively the
5 barber in the home for cutting off hairs. This never
6 happened to you. You weren't someone who ran away.
7 Isn't that right?

8 **A. No, I didn't run away, because all my people are from**
9 **the South of Ireland. I didn't know anything about the**
10 **North of Ireland and my mum was in . So I had**
11 **nowhere to run to. I knew there was only one way out of**
12 **the Ards Peninsula, because they'd just put a road block**
13 **up and you'd be taken back, because I've known from**
14 **other boys that got caught and taken back, knowing what**
15 **happened to them anyway.**

16 Q. The Order would say that heads may have been shaved to
17 deal with lice.

18 **A. We use to get our heads doused for lice with a yellow**
19 **solution. BR25 used to take great pride in scraping**
20 **your head with a steel comb to, you know ...**

21 Q. They say punishments would normally have been withdrawal
22 of privileges, for example, not being allowed to watch
23 the film, as you have described happened to your
24 brother. They would say, in other words, you didn't
25 punish boys by shaving off their hair.

1 **A. They did at that time in the '50s. I think that was**
2 **a practice probably in Milltown as well. It was quite**
3 **common.**

4 Q. In paragraph 17 here you say about not remembering much
5 about school, and you talked again about the Brother
6 there who was the music teacher, as you say, BR15. You
7 say that:

8 "He would make us box the bigger boys and let them
9 knock the hell out of us."

10 **A. That's right.**

11 Q. "I was younger and smaller than most of the boys and
12 I think it amused him to see me getting hit by the
13 bigger boys. It happened in the school, down the
14 farmyard and opposite the main house."

15 Now was boxing one of the sports the boys engaged in
16 generally?

17 **A. I presume it was, because they had boxing gloves there,**
18 **but if you look at my photo, you will see the size of**
19 **me, and he got a kick out of that.**

20 Q. In paragraph 18 you say that you complained to a priest
21 when you made your confession to him at Rubane House and
22 he said keep it between you, him and God, and you
23 remember one day he was coming off the soccer field and
24 he started a row with --

25 **A. No. Gaelic football field.**

1 Q. So that is not right in your statement then when you say
2 soccer field? No?

3 A. Does it say soccer field?

4 Q. Yes, at paragraph 18.

5 A. That's a misprint on the people that were taping me.

6 Q. So he was coming off and you say that he started a row
7 with this particular Brother, and you often wonder if
8 that was how he dealt with what you had told him about
9 this Brother.

10 A. Well, looking back at what my brother said to me about
11 the abuse -- and I went into DL366 -- he was from County
12 Antrim as far as I know -- and I told him in the
13 confession box about BR25 grabbing me by the testicles
14 and that, and he said, "This is between you, me, God and
15 the confession box. It is not to go outside of here",
16 but when we were coming up from the Gaelic playing field
17 he started -- you know, he had been playing soccer, and
18 BR25 was a strict Gaelic man, plus there was a ban in
19 them days. You weren't allowed to play soccer. That's
20 the GAA had this in force, and BR25 being a hurling man,
21 he had a go at DL366. DL366 says, "I have a collar off
22 now", and they were going to go to fisticuffs, and we
23 were looking on, and I think, looking back now, that was
24 his way of dealing -- he didn't know how to deal with
25 it. They weren't trained men. So I think his way of

1 getting at BR25 was to give him a good hiding if he
2 could have got him to provoke him by playing soccer to
3 annoy him, like, you know, because they were very
4 nationalistic in the schools about sports and that.
5 Soccer was banned. That was taboo. You would be in big
6 trouble if you played soccer. You would get a fair
7 hiding for that.

8 Q. Do you ever remember -- in 1958 when you were there, do
9 you ever remember a BP1 coming to speak to boys?

10 A. I don't remember any BP1.

11 Q. You don't remember him asking -- well, did he ever ask
12 -- you don't remember any Brother asking you about
13 whether anything untoward had happened to you in your
14 time?

15 A. No, nothing and, in fact, I didn't know about the Hughes
16 report even. I was never contacted for that.

17 Q. In paragraph 15 you have dealt with -- you spoke about
18 HIA 222 and how his life turned out after
19 Rubane. You talk about your own life after you left in
20 paragraphs 22 to 32. If we can just scan down to that
21 briefly, please. I am not going to go into the details.
22 The details are there for the Inquiry to see.

23 You first -- you talk about -- in this section about
24 what you have already told us about how DL 373 went
25 running out of the room when the programme was aired --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- about Rubane, and you talk about the effect at
3 paragraph 27 that your time in care has had on you. You
4 say also that your memory of certain events in the home
5 is now extremely poor and you think you have blocked out
6 things. Is there something you want to say about that,
7 HIA97?

8 **A. Well, it is over -- what would it be -- 56, 58 years**
9 **ago. Like there is times I can't remember things last**
10 **week, but I can remember things like, as I said before,**
11 **going into -- and that's why I have been going for the**
12 **counselling for a year, you know, and that.**

13 Q. You have -- you made contact with some people and two
14 men we heard from yesterday -- I am going to give their
15 names, but again these names can't be used outside the
16 chamber -- a HIA45 and his brother HIA59.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Do you remember speaking to them?

19 **A. I spoke to them at one point. I started going to**
20 **meetings of SAVIA. You know, I got to know about them.**
21 **It was them that identified HIA 222 in the photo**
22 **--**

23 Q. But --

24 **A. -- but he wasn't there in my time I don't think, HIA45.**
25 **I think he was actually one of the boys that was sent**

1 from Milltown Borstal in the early days.

2 Q. HIA59 would have been there in your time?

3 A. HIA59 was there, yes. Well, HIA59 I call him. HIA59,
4 yes.

5 Q. Do you remember him, though? The contact has been
6 subsequent to --

7 A. It has been so many years, like. I would need to see
8 HIA59 -- a photo of him as a child. That's my problem,
9 you see. Maybe something would jar my memory if I could
10 see photos of younger people, but when you are looking
11 at somebody who is 70 or 80 years of age, you can't
12 remember them. There is no resemblance to what they
13 were like as boys when they had, you know, no grey
14 hairs. You know, it is just impossible for me to
15 remember that.

16 I go down streets in London where they have knocked
17 down buildings and I wouldn't recognise the street, and
18 that can happen in London very quick. Like when I went
19 to Rubane, I couldn't recognise the building. You know,
20 it was a shock to see it all painted white looking so
21 nice. It wasn't the grim stonework. So therefore,
22 like, time changes things.

23 Q. It does indeed. HIA97, you -- just to be clear, you
24 actually were the one who made contact with HIA45 and
25 his brother -- isn't that right -- after getting their

1 contact details; they didn't actually come to you?

2 **A. No, no, they didn't, no. I was searching to know who**
3 **was in the photo, trying to unlock my mind.**

4 **Q. And that --**

5 **A. I definitely -- like, I remember DL 382, because I think**
6 **he had a pacemaker or something, and I used to kind of**
7 **hang about with him, or he had some sort of heart**
8 **defect.**

9 **Q. Well, you -- you talked about your solicitor earlier and**
10 **you have taken proceedings against the Order -- isn't**
11 **that correct -- civil proceedings?**

12 **A. See, that happened before we got this Inquiry going.**
13 **I was told it was time banned and all this, statute of**
14 **limitations. So I got a civil case going, because**
15 **I didn't even know who was alive or who was dead like,**
16 **and Kieran McAteer at the time was acting for SAVIA.**
17 **Before that I had a chap called Joe Rice. That was the**
18 **first solicitor I made contact with. I don't think Joe**
19 **was -- oh, no. He advertised. He was the only**
20 **solicitor. I think he advertised in the Irish Post or**
21 **Irish World.**

22 **Q. And that's how you came --**

23 **A. That's how I came to contact him. I'm getting a bit now**
24 **just lost what we were talking about. Oh, about**
25 **contacting the [name redacted]. That's eventually**

1 through meeting people I found out about them, like, you
2 know.

3 Q. Well, HIA97, I have covered all that I want to cover
4 with you, this morning, but I just want to give you this
5 opportunity -- is there anything you feel you haven't
6 had the opportunity to say that you would like to say?
7 Now is the time to do that.

8 A. It is trying to remember so much. It's just a strange
9 thing with all of the lads that were in there. We all
10 had problems with our bowels, bowel cancer. I don't
11 know why, but talking to the other lads, it seems to be
12 part of what happened to us, the lads that were in there
13 at my time.

14 DL366, I don't know if he is still alive. I don't
15 know about BR25 or BR14. I know BR12 is dead, BR12,
16 from the letter that BR2 wrote, and I have been told
17 since I think that BR15 is dead. I am not quite sure,
18 because, as I said, I don't know whether there was two
19 [name redacted], the one that opened the home and the
20 one that was there in my time.

21 Who else have I left out? BR17, BR12, BR25.
22 I~don't know that BR63. BR13, yes, I think he was
23 a good man. I think he was all right. I believe
24 there's good and bad in all life, you know.

25 Q. Thank you very much, HIA97. One final question from me

1 --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- before I hand you over to the Panel, and that is that
4 you are aware that this Inquiry will ultimately make
5 recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive about
6 what ought to happen, whether in terms of redress, or
7 a monument, or memorial of some form for these children
8 who were in these institutions. What is your view about
9 what ought to happen, HIA97?

10 **A. Well, when I went to Stormont, I said I wanted this**
11 **Inquiry to include all children of all religions,**
12 **Jewish, Presbyterian, Protestant or Catholic, because**
13 **abuse is abuse, and I wanted it to go back to 1945.**
14 **Maybe at the time -- back to 1922. Maybe at the time**
15 **people thought that was wrong, but I didn't know if**
16 **there would be anybody left alive from that time, but**
17 **I felt it should have covered it and to protect children**
18 **in the future. To me my belief is that children of any**
19 **religion deserve to be treated properly.**

20 I did it more or less for my brother, because I know
21 by the end of this Inquiry I could be dead, because I am
22 70 in January, and I have had cancer twice. I don't
23 know if I'll be alive, but I don't want it ever to
24 happen to a child of 5 or 6 or 7. It shouldn't happen
25 to anybody of any age.

1 My view on a statue is what good -- I don't mean
2 what good is a statue. It is nice to have recognition,
3 but it will not solve anything. I think what I would
4 love to see -- I am aware of the budget problems in
5 Northern Ireland -- but I would love to see if there was
6 any money left over from it that they try and set up
7 some sort of like Duke of Edinburgh scholarship award or
8 something to help young kids coming out of institutions,
9 irrespective of what religion they are, out of any
10 institution to try and give them a start in life, to
11 give them a better chance than what we got, and that's
12 what I'd like to see.

13 Q. Thank you very much, HIA97.

14 **A. Thank you.**

15 Q. Thank you. The Panel Members may have some questions
16 for you.

17 Questions from THE PANEL

18 CHAIRMAN: HIA97, can I ask you to go back to two things you
19 have been talking to us about earlier this morning? The
20 first relates to working on the farm at Rubane.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. As you have reminded us, it is about 250 acres at the
23 time.

24 **A. That's right.**

25 Q. It's a big farm. It was actively farmed. There were

1 crops being raised and so on; in other words, not just
2 cattle; crops as well.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. Now you expressed some surprise that any of the boys
5 might have gone to work for outside farmers, because you
6 say there were so few of you and there was so much to do
7 on the farm?

8 **A. Well, that's why I question it, you see. I don't know**
9 **if they were working for the farm. I mean, the custom**
10 **before I went into the home was when they had the**
11 **thrashing in the parish where I come from, all of the**
12 **neighbours gathered together and they helped one**
13 **another. That was the custom in the country areas.**

14 Q. I appreciate that's the way things are often done.

15 **A. But in hindsight, looking at 250 acres, I'm saying to**
16 **myself -- because I don't think there was that many of**
17 **us at that time -- how -- I am not trying to knock**
18 **anybody else's story. I am saying they could have been**
19 **working for farmers, but I didn't get paid any wages.**
20 **I got my pocket money off the Brothers at the week-end,**
21 **but with 250 acres, I think that's a fair-sized farm.**
22 **It would take a lot of working.**

23 Q. It would take a lot of working without machinery
24 certainly.

25 **A. Well, without machinery. They only had a tractor**

1 I think and a thing that you open up the drills, but
2 I don't want to prejudice anybody else's story, because
3 later on they probably had modern machinery.

4 Q. You were there for --

5 A. In the '50s.

6 Q. -- just about, what, a year and a half. Isn't that
7 right?

8 A. Two years. My brother was thirteen months I think.

9 Q. You mention pocket money. I am old enough to remember
10 in the days when 12 pennies made a shilling.

11 A. That's right, yes.

12 Q. Nowadays that would be the equivalent 5p. Isn't that
13 right?

14 A. Probably, yes.

15 Q. Yes. The old shilling became 5p when we became
16 decimalised.

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

18 Q. Now you said you got 12 pennies, in other words, you got
19 a shilling a week in old money pocket money?

20 A. Pocket money, yes.

21 Q. You could -- if you had money left over, if you were --
22 if you had something taken away, but you could spend the
23 money in the tuck shop?

24 A. In the tuck shop on a Sunday morning.

25 Q. Can you remember whether or not you got any extra money

1 if you were working, say, picking the potatoes for
2 a week?

3 **A. No, never, never.**

4 Q. Never any extra money?

5 **A. Never any extra money. Only that bit of pocket money.**

6 **In fact, on my uncles' -- sorry. Is it okay to speak?**

7 Q. Yes, of course.

8 **A. My uncles gave me money the Christmas I went down. They**
9 **were quite well off. They had hotels and jewellers'**
10 **shops, because I didn't come from a poor family. I went**
11 **from riches to rags, and they gave me money, like. That**
12 **was quite a considerable sum, because it is in the**
13 **letter that I gave you, and my grandad said, "Give it to**
14 **BR17 and the poor Brothers. They need it more than**
15 **you", because the old people, my grandad and all, they**
16 **had high respect for the church, like. You know, my**
17 **grandfather was a Justice of the Peace and, you know,**
18 **that's what he said, like, "They need it more than you".**
19 **They probably in all their wisdom thought, my mother and**
20 **all, that the church was looking after us or the**
21 **institutions, you know, but they took the money. So ...**

22 Q. Thank you very much.

23 MS DOHERTY: HIA97, thanks very much. Thanks for coming
24 here for you and for DL 373 .

25 **A. Thank you.**

1 Q. Can I just go back to the boxing matches? I just want
2 to be clear. Were the boxing matches like sport,
3 recreation, or was it as a form of punishment if you
4 had --

5 A. Well, it was supposed to be a thing of recreation in the
6 evening. They weren't boxing tournaments as such. They
7 were just among the boys in the home, but it just turned
8 into a punishment. I dreaded it. You see the size of
9 me in the photo. They put a pair of boxing -- and
10 somebody that appeared to me massive. Even the
11 Brothers, like, looking at them, they seemed years older
12 maybe than what they were, but to a child -- my
13 counsellor (inaudible) -- they would have -- a grown-up
14 would have seemed older.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. They just seemed a huge boy. I remember, like -- I am
17 not saying I was a plucky little fella, but I used to
18 try and give as good as I got, and I used to get upset
19 when he would say, "You've lost", you know. I had that
20 bit of go in me, like, you know, but, you know ...

21 Q. Did they let the -- we have heard from other people
22 saying that there is an issue about letting matches go
23 on to the point where boys get badly hurt.

24 A. Well, I certainly got a good battering. It seemed to go
25 on, like, until the other fella got the better of me.

1 I~never got the chance to get the better of who was
2 boxing me, but I always remember they were bigger than
3 me, because even my brother was bigger than me. When I
4 was 9, I was only up to his ear, because he was a big
5 man, my brother. He was 6'4", you know. So these boys
6 were big like him, you know.

7 Q. Okay. Can I -- there is just another thing to clarify.
8 When you say -- were you involved in actually building
9 the swimming pool?

10 A. Digging it out.

11 Q. Digging it out?

12 A. Yes, we dug it out.

13 Q. How long did that take? Was that a long-time occupation
14 doing that?

15 A. I can't remember offhand, but we were digging it out and
16 then the boys were working like a chain taking buckets
17 of stuff away, like, you know, but I can't remember
18 exactly how long it took. It is so long ago.

19 Q. And would that have been during the summer time or would
20 that have been during school time?

21 A. I have no idea what season it was. It is too long ago.

22 Q. Too long ago.

23 A. Too long ago.

24 Q. Too long ago. Okay. My final question is we have heard
25 some things about certain boys being favourites of

1 priests, or Brothers actually giving, you know, more
2 attention to certain boys. Do you remember that at all?

3 **A. I don't know really. Maybe the boys with the**
4 **(inaudible). I don't know if they were like prefects.**
5 **I don't know, but DL 382, like -- there was an instance**
6 **where DL 382 decided he was going to join the Christian**
7 **Brothers or the De La Salle Brothers. So I decided I'd**
8 **go up with him. They took us to Belfast to meet them,**
9 **but they seen through me, because I was trying to get**
10 **the pressure off myself, and probably they knew my**
11 **mother was still alive and eventually maybe I'd be**
12 **returned to her, but they didn't accept me, but DL 382**
13 **had expressed a desire, a vocation. That's the lad in**
14 **the photo with the long -- but he was a kind of**
15 **a delicate sort of lad. He had something wrong with his**
16 **heart.**

17 **Q. Okay. Thank --**

18 **A. We used to stick together, but that was the only --**

19 **Q. The only time.**

20 **A. -- the only trip I got. I went to see the Ten**
21 **Commandments in Belfast.**

22 **Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA97.**

23 **MR LANE:** Thank you. Just one other question about the
24 swimming pool. What sort of size was it? Was it just
25 a little dipping pool or something quite big?

1 A. No, I don't -- it wasn't that big, no, and I think there
2 may have been a second swimming pool built later on when
3 they done the chalets, because when I went to Rubane, it
4 was all filled in. There was no trace of the swimming
5 pool.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. So I can only visualise as a child, you know, how big it
8 was. It might have been to where Christine is I think.
9 I don't think it was one of these huge swimming pools,
10 but it seemed -- to a child when you are digging it it
11 seemed big, you know.

12 Q. Thank you very much.

13 A. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA97, thank you very much indeed for
15 coming to speak to us. That's all we need to ask you.
16 So ...

17 A. I just want to say one other thing.

18 Q. Of course.

19 A. I have other scars on my body on this side of the head,
20 but they had nothing to do with Rubane, and I explained
21 that in the doctor's report to him. I only spoke to him
22 about the scars that I got in Rubane on my hand and on
23 my head and on my knee. I have a scar on my nose and
24 things like that. I didn't get them in Rubane, and the
25 scar on this side of my head is as old nearly as the one

1 that I got in Rubane, but it wasn't caused by the
2 Brothers. I just want to clarify that. I have only
3 spoke about what actually happened to me there. Thank
4 you.

5 Q. Well, thank you for making that clear and thank you very
6 much for coming to speak to us today. I think we will
7 take a short break now. So if you want to leave, you
8 are free to go. Thank you.

9 A. Thank you, sir.

10 (Witness withdrew)

11 CHAIRMAN: We will take five minutes before the next
12 witness.

13 (11.25 am)

14 (Short break)

15 (11.30 am)

16 WITNESS HIA183 (called)

17 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

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

19 The next witness today is HIA183, who is "HIA183", and
20 he is aware, Mr Chairman, that you are going to ask him
21 now about taking the oath or affirming.

22 CHAIRMAN: HIA183, do you wish to take a religious oath or
23 to make an affirmation? They have the same legal
24 effect. It is a matter for you to choose.

25 A. Okay. I'll take the religious oath, please.

1 **WITNESS HIA183 (sworn)**

2 **Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY**

3 MR AIKEN: Would you put up, please, RUB614? HIA183, on the
4 screen is a redacted copy of your statement. I trust if
5 you just look at the hard copy where you can see what's
6 under the black marks and can you just check and confirm
7 that that is the same first page of your statement as
8 the hard copy that you've got?

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

10 Q. Can we go, please, to 621? Can you just check for me
11 again, HIA183, that that page matches the hard copy
12 version, the last page of your statement?

13 **A. Yes, yes.**

14 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm -- obviously the one on
15 the screen has a black mark over the signature with
16 a number, but can you confirm that you signed your
17 statement?

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

19 Q. And that you want to adopt its contents as your evidence
20 before the Inquiry?

21 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

22 Q. And the other reason why we have the black marks,
23 HIA183, is to protect the anonymity of the individual
24 who is appearing before the Inquiry. What I want to ask
25 you is whether you wish to keep that anonymity and

1 remain anonymous?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. You do?

4 **A. Yes, I do.**

5 Q. Now there are three core documents that I just want to
6 give the Panel the reference for, HIA183, before we move
7 into discussing the issues that arise from your
8 statement.

9 The statement obviously from the individual is at
10 614 to 621. That's HIA183's statement of March -- 1st
11 March 2014.

12 Then the De La Salle Order have provided a replying
13 statement at RUB2121 and at 2122.

14 Then there is a Health & Social Care Board replying
15 statement at 8044 and 8045, and we will touch on those
16 as we go.

17 HIA183, you were born on --

18 **A. That's correct.**

19 Q. -- and have reached ?

20 **A. That's correct.**

21 Q. And I am not going to comment on the ladies who are
22 suggesting you look much younger --

23 **A. Thank you very much.**

24 Q. -- than your age, but you are.

25 **A. That's . . .**

1 Q. You were in Rubane between 12th August 1957 and
2 13th July 1960 and that was between the ages of 12 and
3 15.

4 **A. That's correct.**

5 Q. And if we could have paragraph 13, please, at 617,
6 I~just want to ask you about your first impression
7 whenever you arrived in Rubane. You had been living in
8 Nazareth Lodge. You have been in Fox Lodge before that
9 as an infant, and you are then indicating here in
10 paragraph 13 about being transferred, and you are
11 saying:

12 "Nazareth Lodge was horrendous and going to Rubane
13 was like stepping out of the frying pan into the fire."

14 **A. That's correct, yes.**

15 Q. Is that how you saw it at the time or is that you
16 reflecting now, looking back, that's how you recall?

17 **A. Well, let's say I didn't feel any -- didn't feel any
18 warmth. I felt intimidated. Older boys, and I felt
19 a wee bit insecure, you know, and as the years went on
20 I just felt very uncomfortable in it.**

21 Q. Now you do have positive memories of your time in
22 Rubane. You mention in paragraph 15 a particular
23 Brother who was there. There is a black mark over his
24 name. That's BR66, who was someone that did care, as
25 you saw it.

1 A. I remember BR66. He took over our class. The other
2 Brother, he moved on. It was BR66. When I seen him
3 first, actually my first appearance was he is a very
4 cross looking man, bald head, and I said, "God! Is this
5 the one who is teaching us?", but it seemed -- it turned
6 out he was a very, very kind, very caring and he sat us
7 all down into the class -- there was about probably
8 twelve or thirteen in the classroom -- and he told us
9 all about the importance of education, and he told us
10 that it was very easy carried, and he took tremendous
11 patience teaching, because we were very slow, probably
12 because we were probably damaged children, you know,
13 being brought up in an orphanage, because there was no
14 security, but sadly BR66, I think he only lasted about
15 a month, and I don't feel ashamed to say that I actually
16 shed a few tears, because to me he was my own salvation
17 as far as education was concerned. He was moved on or
18 whatever the case was.

19 Hindsight is a great thing. I think he knew what
20 was going on in the home and he just got off side, but
21 there again I may be wrong. That's my only assessment,
22 but to me I just looked up to that man and I was just
23 saying if I had about three or four years with him,
24 I would have been -- would have felt very, very
25 comfortable as far as education was concerned.

1 Q. He was a decent individual?

2 **A. Oh, he was a real, real gentleman.**

3 Q. And you have a positive memory of him?

4 **A. I have a pos... -- that is about the only positive**
5 **memory I have.**

6 Q. In fact, we will look at it for other reasons, but
7 whenever you met with the Order in 2004 in Clonard
8 Monastery --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- you mentioned to them that you had similar positive
11 memories about BR13.

12 **A. BR13 was a very good man too, very kind. He used to**
13 **take us out for our walks. He was a great man to talk**
14 **to. He was a great listener and he would have talked**
15 **about nature, and we would have walked into Kircubbin,**
16 **and he always had his big bags of sweets. He was**
17 **a very, very good man, very kind man and, you know, very**
18 **caring man.**

19 Q. You had similar impressions of a much younger Brother,
20 BR63.

21 **A. BR63 was a very -- he taught us -- BR63 taught us too**
22 **and he was a very good brother. I related to him very**
23 **well. I haven't a bad word to say about BR63.**

24 Q. Another positive experience you recount -- we will not
25 necessarily find it in the statement -- but you remember

1 during your summer holidays --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- during your time in Rubane going out to stay with
4 a family in Waringstown.

5 **A. Right. They would have took me out at the summer**
6 **holidays around about July and I would have been there**
7 **with them for about three weeks. I must say I really,**
8 **really looked forward to that, because I was getting --**
9 **I was escaping from Rubane, because, as I say, you know,**
10 **as you know, they weren't happy memories, and you called**
11 **these people the , and they would have came**
12 **and visited me, you know, in Rubane, and taken me out,**
13 **and I had great happy memories.**

14 Q. Their name shouldn't be used beyond the chamber.

15 **A. Sorry. My apology.**

16 Q. No, you are fine, HIA 183. I am just making the media
17 aware their name shouldn't be used beyond the chamber.

18 That's a family that you continue to be in contact with?

19 **A. That's correct, yes.**

20 Q. And we will come to look at some of the reunion type
21 material --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- towards the end, because you formed good
24 relationships with a number of the boys that you lived
25 with --

1 **A. That's correct.**

2 Q. -- and those who subsequently passed through the home --

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

4 Q. -- and we will come back to that.

5 But what you do describe in terms of abuse I am
6 going to break down into two categories. The first is
7 the physical abuse that you both witnessed and suffered,
8 and then we will move on to the sexual abuse.

9 The physical abuse, if we can look, please, at
10 paragraph 16 at 617, and you describe here a particular
11 event in school that has never left you to do with BR17.
12 Now BR17 at the time you are in, was he the head of the
13 home?

14 **A. BR17 was the head of the home.**

15 Q. And the principal of the school?

16 **A. And the principal of the school.**

17 Q. And you are describing here in paragraph 16 -- perhaps
18 do you want to just articulate it in your own words?

19 **A. Yes, I do. BR17 -- I was in the choir at the particular**
20 **time and he was taking us for the mass. There was --**
21 **I think there was some feast coming up, De La Salle**
22 **feast was coming up. So he was teaching us Latin, and**
23 **that particular time he brought me up in front of the**
24 **classroom and asked me what we were learning. Obviously**
25 **that particular time I didn't know how to read Latin,**

1 never mind English. So he asked me what we were
2 learning and I says we were learning a hymn, and so he
3 just abused me with his fist for about ten -- about
4 seven or eight minutes, and I kept repeating saying
5 "hymn", and then I think one of the boys in the -- thank
6 God! -- one of the boys, he shouted out "Latin".

7 So once I mentioned Latin, he stopped, but that had
8 a terrible profound effect on me. It left me
9 traumatised for about two or three days and till this
10 day I still remember that and it does -- it has haunted
11 my mind, you know.

12 Q. So that's a situation that takes place in front of your
13 other classmates?

14 A. There would have been about fifteen or twenty boys at
15 that particular time.

16 Q. And, as you say, someone came to your rescue with the
17 word "Latin" --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- which you then repeated?

20 A. Well, I think that particular time the reason why that
21 boy shouted out "Latin", I think he was -- I think he
22 was -- he couldn't stand the beatings what I was getting
23 and that lasted for about seven or eight minutes. He
24 flung me over the table and fisted me and everything,
25 you know. It's something not to bear -- try to put out

1 of my head, but it keeps coming back every so often.

2 Q. Now in speaking to me this morning you recollected -- we
3 won't find it in the witness statement -- but you
4 recollected BR14 and an occasion when you were cleaning
5 your teeth.

6 A. Well, I do recollect one time BR14 -- I was cleaning my
7 teeth and I wasn't quick enough and he made a swipe for
8 me, but luckily enough I was able to duck that swipe,
9 but BR14, he had a fierce temper and he was a Brother
10 I~could just never relate to, you know.

11 Q. You make reference to him during your meeting in 2004.

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. We will come back to look at that. You -- what was the
14 atmosphere like? You are describing this incident where
15 you were hit and you have related another incident
16 involving BR14, and elsewhere you talk about other boys
17 being hit. What was the atmosphere that that created
18 like?

19 A. I think the boys really, you know -- it was never
20 discussed afterwards because in case -- I think the boys
21 kept their head down. They never said what happened,
22 just ignored it, you know, whatever was happening, just
23 in case they got involved or got -- whatever Brother was
24 involved, you know. You know, so you never got any --
25 you never got any sympathy from the boys, because they

1 **were afraid being involved and that the Brother would**
2 **sense that you were getting sympathy, you know. You're**
3 **in trouble or they would have been in trouble, you know.**

4 Q. What I want to do now, HIA183, is move to talk about the
5 sexual abuse that you explain in your statement. I'm
6 going to take that in chronological order. It begins at
7 paragraph 17, but just before I deal with that, you do
8 describe -- if we can just look at 50133, please. Then
9 we will go back to 618. This is the meeting that took
10 place in 2004 between the Order -- representatives of
11 the Order, Father and yourself.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. If we just scroll down, please, the first instance --
14 just keep going down for me, please. Now if we look at
15 1b), because this seems to be an event that takes place
16 on the way from Nazareth Lodge. You describe in the
17 Inquiry witness statement how BR17 came and picked you
18 up in a mini van and brought your group of Nazareth
19 Lodge boys to Rubane. What you are describing here in
20 1(b) is the seating arrangements --

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. -- on the trip back.

23 **A. That's right. Well, I do remember now the occasion. We**
24 **were leaving Nazareth Lodge. A lot of the boys and**
25 **I were really excited they were moving on to a new home.**

1 BR17 called down that particular day, and I think the
2 van door was opened, and they all made a big rush to get
3 their seats, and he made each individual child get --
4 and, of course, I was one of them too, and I got into
5 the back seat, and he ushered us all out again and he
6 arranged the whole seating, and I said, "God! Where the
7 hell am I going to be sitting?"

8 So the next minute there was two of us put in the
9 front or I think it was two or three put in the front
10 and I was up -- he put me up beside the -- up in the --
11 beside where the gearbox was, and he says, "Now I want
12 you to throw your leg over", because it was pretty
13 squashed. Of course I never thought anything of it, you
14 know, and the next minute his hand was touching my leg,
15 you know, and I'll not go into that.

16 Q. And then if we go back, please, to 618, paragraph 17,
17 you describe how about three months into your time in
18 Rubane, so that would be around the end of 1957, start
19 of 1958 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- he took some of you into his office. Was this in the
22 school building can you remember?

23 A. That would have been in the school building. This
24 was -- he would have done this every sort of six or
25 seven or eight months, and he would have called most of

1 the boys and he would have looked -- he would have had
2 a file in front of him, and he would have took us into
3 the office and he would have asked us all these
4 questions. "Have you any relatives or any relations?"
5 and I told him I had nobody and I was a complete orphan.
6 I had no brothers nor sisters. At that particular time
7 I had no brother, which I discovered I had later on, and
8 he would have done this with the boys every so often,
9 and --

10 Q. You have subsequently formed a view about what you think
11 he was doing.

12 A. Well, hindsight is a great thing. I thought of this
13 when I left out to go out to work. Obviously the man
14 was covering his tracks. He was looking -- to me he was
15 looking for the vulnerable boys who had nobody to turn
16 to. I had no brother, no sister, no mother or father at
17 that particular time.

18 Q. And in paragraph 18 then you describe an incident at
19 about six months into your stay, which would be the
20 spring of 1958.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And you describe how four of you were summoned to his
23 office.

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Can you just explain what happened on that occasion?

1 A. Well, do you mind -- can I name the names?

2 Q. The Inquiry Panel will know the names.

3 A. That's grand. That's okay. Well, there were these
4 other boys and myself. Now these other three boys, they
5 had special needs. Now they ended up going to
6 Warrenpoint with the Election Brothers, but anyhow we
7 were sitting in -- he called us out. We were at class
8 at this particular time and he called us out at the
9 middle of class and we went into the office. There was
10 no windows or anything. So it was at the very bottom
11 corridor, the office was, where he had his office, and
12 he had asked us to strip and take all our clothes off,
13 and we did that, and he told us to face him, and then
14 after a couple of seconds he asked us to turn around,
15 pretending to take notes, and I found that very
16 mortifying and inhumane, and that has stuck to me for
17 the rest of my days.

18 Q. Then in paragraph 19, HIA183, you describe how -- just
19 if I set the screen for this, you had benedictions.

20 A. That's correct. Well, religious part in the home was
21 very -- well, it was up -- very important really,
22 because it was -- usually the rosary was said about 4.30
23 or 5.00 and would have been probably benediction
24 afterwards, and he would have taken the choir. It was
25 always the choir that sang at the benediction, and then

1 after the benediction it was always the case he would
2 ask, "I would like to speak to you afterwards up into my
3 bedroom" and I knew -- it was -- the first time when it
4 happened I was innocent. So I was only, as I say,
5 a couple of -- about a year and a half I would say I was
6 in the home at that particular time this incident
7 happened, probably less, and he asked me when I went up
8 into the room to strip and lie on top of the bed, and he
9 would pretend that he was -- you know, took down my
10 trousers. I had nothing on me, and as usual got the pen
11 out, pretended that he was writing. I never thought
12 anything of it. I thought maybe this is a natural thing
13 to do, check and see have we got any -- are we all
14 right, you know. It was like a doctor, you know.

15 So this happened a second time about three or four
16 months later on, and the penny dropped, and I just says,
17 "This is not right. There's something wrong here,
18 seriously wrong". So I knew this was going to happen
19 again and I always dreaded it, but I had nobody to turn
20 to or to say or even ask the other boys, because I was
21 afraid of it getting back to BR17. So I kept quiet and
22 just beared it, you know.

23 Q. Let me just pause you there, HIA183, to say the Panel
24 are aware of the 1958 investigation and one of the
25 descriptions not of a boy -- not of HIA183 but of

1 another boy being undressed in the bedroom in order for
2 an examination to take place.

3 I want to ask you about that, HIA183. You are there
4 spanning September 1958 and the Inquiry is aware from
5 material that has been disclosed that the Irish
6 Provincial, BP1, came to Rubane to carry out
7 an investigation into allegations that were made against
8 BR17.

9 In 2004 when you met with the representatives from
10 the Order, if we can go to, please, 50135, you recounted
11 to -- at this meeting that you remembered being spoken
12 to by BP1, and the Inquiry is aware -- I will just give
13 the reference in passing. The reference is at RUB209
14 and 210. The Provincial spoke to, according to his
15 note, 39 boys on 10th September. You record at that
16 meeting when you met with the Order at Clonard how --
17 you say:

18 "He remembered a top Brother coming on one occasion
19 and meeting all the boys."

20 He walked up and down the front of the building with
21 you and asked you if you were happy in Kircubbin. You
22 said you were.

23 "He said he had come from Nazareth Lodge and had no
24 family. If he reported, he was afraid he would be
25 thrown out of Kircubbin and he would have nowhere to go

1 to."

2 So that's a record of that meeting, but can I just
3 ask you you remember the Provincial speaking to you?

4 **A. I do very clearly, yes. He walked me round to the -- in**
5 **front of the house and asked me was I happy and there**
6 **was no -- there was no talk about being abused or**
7 **anything like that, but that was happening to me, you**
8 **know. So, as you can appreciate, I had no brothers and**
9 **no living relatives and I had no brothers and sisters,**
10 **and it was going on, and I was unhappy at that**
11 **particular time, but I had to tell him I was just happy**
12 **to -- to clarify that, just to sort of say like ...**

13 **Q.** Now the Order have accepted before the Inquiry that BR17
14 did abuse boys in Rubane, and in respect -- if we can
15 just bring up, please, 2121, and paragraph 5, the Order
16 you will see indicates:

17 "The Order accepts with deep regret and sorrow that
18 BR17 did sexually abuse children in his care."

19 In fact, HIA183, as I was explaining to you this
20 morning, if we just scroll down, please, to paragraph 8,
21 that the Order has indicated to the Inquiry that that
22 meeting that took place with you in 2004 in Clonard,
23 where you explained what happened at the time of the
24 1958 investigation, and the Order accepts -- accepted
25 when you met them your account of what took place and

1 offered counselling, and you didn't want that, and
2 offered potentially compensation, and you weren't
3 interested in that at the time. You told them they say
4 that all you wanted to do was inform them about what
5 happened so it wouldn't happen again.

6 They then say this. Your 2004 reflections, what you
7 said to them at that meeting then shaped the manner in
8 which the Order dealt with subsequent allegations about
9 BR17 that has come to light.

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. So you may take some comfort that what you were setting
12 out to do and telling them you wanted to do in 2004 had
13 a significant effect on the people in the Order who were
14 then looking at the allegations that came after.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. They are acknowledging that publicly to the Inquiry.

17 **A. That's okay.**

18 Q. You then describe, HIA183, BR15 and what he did. If we
19 can look, please, at paragraph 20 at RUB618.

20 **A. Yes. This would have been -- there was two -- there was**
21 **a small room or smaller house and it was down at the**
22 **farm, towards the farm and --**

23 Q. It is described as the steward's house --

24 **A. Steward's house.**

25 Q. -- where you had at least two dormitories perhaps in

1 your time.

2 **A. Two or three dormitories. Now I am not 100% sure.**

3 I was downstairs anyway. It was in the small hours of
4 the morning. I think it was probably 2.00 or 3.00 in
5 the morning, and there was this man -- somebody who went
6 round the whole bed, and he had a white sheet over him,
7 and he went round each bed and some he spent a longer
8 time at.

9 Q. And you describe in paragraph 20 the groping that he was
10 engaged in.

11 **A. He was groping around all the boys, and then when he**
12 **came to the last boy nearest to the door, he let out**
13 **a scream and this person in the white sheet covered over**
14 **him let out a scream and he made a dive for BR15's room.**
15 **So we talked about this the next day and we all come to**
16 **the conclusions that it was BR15, because there was**
17 **nobody else could escape into that room.**

18 Q. And the one other incident that you recall of him
19 interfering with you you record in paragraph 21.

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. He was involved in the clothes --

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

23 Q. -- in charge of the clothing. You had buttons missing
24 on your shorts and he said he would fix them. You were
25 brought into the dormitory and he fixed them while you

1 were wearing the shorts.

2 **A. Well, I -- yes, I do remember that incident very**
3 **clearly. I told him that there was a button missing.**
4 **There was two or three buttons missing. So I says,**
5 **"Look, do you mind if I take my trousers off?" He says,**
6 **"No, keep them on" and it was about -- he must have been**
7 **about twenty or thirty minutes putting on those buttons,**
8 **and you can understand, you know, a young lad about 13**
9 **or 14, and he --**

10 Q. As to what occurred.

11 **A. You can understand.**

12 Q. Again the Order have acknowledged in their replying
13 statement in paragraph 6 -- I am not going to bring it
14 up -- exactly the same. They've accepted that BR15
15 sexually abused boys and they have expressed sorrow and
16 regret that that took place.

17 You also say in paragraph 22, if we scroll down,
18 please, to 619, he was also violent. You record
19 an incident where he took to another boy and the Panel
20 will be able to see who you are referring to.

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. They will know who the designation relates to. He was
23 getting hit across the face with a bamboo cane. Can you
24 remember that?

25 **A. I remember that incident very, very clearly. He called**

1 out this particular boy and he specifically -- he was
2 only wearing a light -- he was only wearing a vest and
3 short trousers, and he had bamboo cane, and he must
4 have -- he was about five or ten minutes giving him
5 a whack, you know, across the legs and the arm and
6 I think it traumatised that young lad. He wasn't right
7 afterwards. So we became the best of friends
8 afterwards. I came over and gave him sympathy over it,
9 you know, but sadly that boy has passed on.

10 Q. Yes, but he is a person you remained friendly with. You
11 cycled together --

12 A. We cycled together.

13 Q. -- and on one occasion you --

14 A. We built up a good relationship, you know, and we cycled
15 everywhere together, and I still keep in contact with
16 his wife.

17 Q. On one occasion you and he cycled back to Kircubbin --

18 A. Kircubbin, yes.

19 Q. -- at his suggestion.

20 A. At his suggestion. I had no inclination of going back.
21 We were just halfway down the Ards Peninsula. He says,
22 "Why don't we call down?" I said, "I have no interest
23 in going", but unfortunately I went along with him, but
24 it turned out a good day. It was a lovely day.

25 Q. Now, HIA183, I want to mention to you now -- you have

1 talked about a good experience of going out to stay with
2 a family. One of the points that arise in your case,
3 the HSCB, now speaking on behalf of welfare authorities
4 at the time, indicate they don't have a file on you
5 because you were a private admission who didn't come to
6 their attention --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- and these placements that were going on seem to have
9 been organised by the Order or in conjunction with
10 Nazareth Lodge, moving out to stay in homes. We won't
11 find this in the Inquiry statement, but you record in
12 a letter that you wrote in October 2009 -- it is at --
13 the relevant part is at 20020 in the bundle. If we can
14 bring that up, please. It is the third paragraph.

15 If you will forgive me, it is not entirely as clear
16 in this paragraph, as I am going to ask you to explain
17 what happened, but if I can summarise the scene in this
18 way. You were in Rubane. Another boy that you knew,
19 who is DL278, was out staying with a family near Lisburn
20 --

21 **A. That's right. That's correct.**

22 Q. -- and BR17 asked you to go and stay with that family,
23 because the boy was lonely.

24 **A. Yes. Well, I do remember that incident, that particular**
25 **boy. I think he is living in now. He took me**

1 into the office and he had said to me -- he says,
2 "I want you -- how would you feel like going out to keep
3 DL278 company, because he is a feeling a wee bit
4 homesick?" Naturally I thought this was a great thing,
5 you know, getting away from the home and different
6 environment, and naturally you would be excited, you
7 know. So it expired that particular day. I think it
8 was a train or a bus. It's -- must be near fifty years
9 ago. I recollect there was this man came on the bike
10 and called for me and he brought -- I got on to the bar
11 of the bike and we must have cycled about a couple of
12 miles and he said, "You must be feeling tired now", and
13 this was about 3.00 or 4.00 in the afternoon, and
14 I says, "Oh, no, I'm grand. I'm grand. I'm okay". So
15 that was all right. So he says, "Och, you'll have a wee
16 lie down anyway for quite a while. We'll have a wee
17 rest and then have our tea afterwards". So that was
18 that. We arrived into the house. He introduced me to
19 his son and his wife, and I seen DL278, which I felt at
20 home more or less, because we could relate, you know.
21 You can understand brought up with DL278. The
22 next minute we had a cup of tea. The next minute it was
23 straight to bed, and he started trying to abuse me, and
24 I told the woman of the house. I said, "I would prefer
25 to go home", you know. I never said why, but I'm sure

1 she understood what it was about, but -- and I heard
2 that from DL278, that he -- they had separated, you
3 know, him and the wife. It just wasn't a happy
4 experience, you know.

5 Q. When you went back, you didn't tell BR17 --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- who was abusing you himself, about what had happened?

8 A. Well, it didn't take me to work that out, you know.

9 Q. And just to be clear, the name that you mentioned of the
10 boy shouldn't be used beyond the chamber.

11 A. Sorry about that.

12 Q. Not you, HIA183. It's fine.

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. I'm just talking to others who are hearing your
15 evidence, and there are two other matters that I want to
16 just briefly touch on with you, HIA183, and that is --
17 it is in various parts of your statement. I don't want
18 to open those up to any great extent, but you describe
19 the education that you received in Rubane --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- as poor.

22 A. Very poor.

23 Q. Do you want to just explain to the Panel what you mean
24 by that?

25 A. I think really -- I think really a lot of our lads --

1 personally speaking I think a lot of our lads were --
2 you know, they were slow, you know, and I think there
3 was -- you know, there was no competition, you know. We
4 never got any homework or -- I've a funny feeling the
5 Brothers just thought we were beyond teaching, you know,
6 and I remember BR66 at 11 years of age and he says to
7 me, "HIA183, do you know how to read the clock?"
8 I said, "No, I don't, Brother". He took endless
9 patience and taught me how to read the clock at 11 years
10 of age, but just the education was very, very bad.
11 There was no homework. There was no -- it was just very
12 bad, and I think a lot of our boys actually who have
13 passed on over the water, I think the great majority of
14 them didn't know how to read or write when they went out
15 to work. I'm convinced about that.

16 Q. You make a point in paragraph 29, if we can go to 620,
17 please, that you felt that -- just the last -- the
18 penultimate sentence:

19 "When I left care, I was very sheltered and unable
20 to relate to people."

21 So here you are talking about the sentiment of not
22 being prepared for the outside world beyond your time in
23 care. What way did you feel? Why did you feel
24 unprepared?

25 A. I remember the time BR17 brought me in and explained to

1 me the facts of life and what happened, you know, and
2 then he says to me, "HIA183, you know, you will be going
3 out to work. We have ..." So I remembered that
4 particular -- the next day I couldn't believe my luck
5 that I was leaving Rubane, you know, but, you know,
6 I remember walking down to Rubane Bus Station and I was
7 to meet DL367, the Welfare Officer, at the other end in
8 Belfast in Great Victoria Street or Victoria Street, and
9 I remember walking down Rubane, Rubane corner, and
10 I remember thinking, you know -- I says, "God! You
11 know, I'm going out here. I can't either read nor
12 write. I'm very ill equipped" and, you know, it was one
13 of the loneliest days of my life, really lonely, and
14 I says, "How the hell am I going to get on here?", but,
15 however, I just felt very, very insecure and I just --
16 at that particular time I remember now the man who did
17 my best man, and he'd said to me -- he'd related to me
18 one day -- he says, "HIA183, you know, we couldn't make
19 out a word you said first when you came out". He says,
20 "You couldn't put two words together", but I think where
21 my education came into was through my profession as
22 a I was relating with people. I understood
23 what people were talking about and that's how I was able
24 to communicate with people. That was my education.

25 Q. And you did establish a successful

1 business and had staff and overcame those issues?

2 **A. I did indeed. I did indeed.**

3 Q. And you touched on DL367. In paragraph 27, if you just
4 scroll up a little bit, please, you describe Nazareth
5 Lodge Welfare Committee. DL367 was the Welfare Officer.

6 **A. That's correct.**

7 Q. I am not going to open them, but you are aware I showed
8 you -- and I am going to give the Panel the references:
9 20013 through to 20018 -- DL367 seemed to write
10 regularly on each of the boys that he was trying to help
11 get jobs, and in your case you began work in on
12 Street.

13 **A. That's right, yes. I was -- when I went out first,**
14 **I was going on to a fella in the . I will**
15 **not give you his name. I was going on to be a chef. I**
16 **was -- you were starting about 6.00 in the morning to**
17 **6.00 at night, and just I felt I wasn't suited out for**
18 **-- I wasn't suitable for the job. It didn't interest me**
19 **at all. So I left the . I was there for**
20 **about -- I think about a year and a half or two years.**
21 **Then I went into labouring work and did various jobs,**
22 **and then -- but was always at the back of**
23 **my mind. I knew what I wanted. So the rest is history.**

24 Q. And you have -- if we look at paragraph 30, you have
25 kept involved in and engaged with reunions of boys from

1 Rubane. I am going to touch on a couple of those.

2 I suppose if I can try and summarise the point the Order
3 is making, despite --

4 **A. I understand, yes.**

5 Q. -- what occurred for you in terms of physical and sexual
6 abuse, you still felt an affinity to the boys, some of
7 Brothers and the home that was your home. Do you want
8 to express in your own --

9 **A. Well, the reason why I started up the reunion was there**
10 **was quite a few of our boys -- there must have been five**
11 **or six funerals I went to, and it was the only time we**
12 **all seemed to meet up, and there was one or two of the**
13 **boys said to me, "HIA183, you know, it is the saddest**
14 **moment". He says, "This is the only time we seem to**
15 **meet up", and I got home and I felt really -- I felt**
16 **guilty actually, because I was one of the oldest boys**
17 **there, because my generation all went across the water,**
18 **but this would have been the next generation of boys,**
19 **and so I took it on to myself to organise a reunion once**
20 **a year, and I have been doing it now this past -- must**
21 **be about eight or nine years now been going and it's**
22 **been very successful, and I've took another boy on along**
23 **with me who helps me to organise it, you know.**

24 Q. And some of the Brothers in the past have come to the --

25 **A. I think, yes, have attended the reunions, yes and it is**

1 **always good to see them too, but these are the Brothers**
2 **who weren't there in my time, and I had a good**
3 **relationship with them.**

4 Q. And you -- the Order draws attention in paragraph 7 of
5 its replying statement at 2121 to some annotations in
6 a diary of BR2, who you'll recall having met -- he
7 wasn't necessarily there in your time --

8 **A. Yes, that's right.**

9 Q. -- of after a funeral you perhaps going back to Rubane
10 and potentially staying over. You don't have any memory
11 of that?

12 **A. I don't have any memory of that, but it honestly must**
13 **have happened, but I don't -- I don't have any**
14 **recollect, you know.**

15 Q. You do remember going back with the friend that you
16 mentioned who has now passed away?

17 **A. Oh, I remember going back with my friend. That's right.**

18 Q. In fact, there is a photograph which I showed you this
19 morning --

20 **A. That's right.**

21 Q. -- and the panel will have a copy of the photograph, and
22 this seems to be from 1974, and I am right in saying, if
23 you will forgive me, you are this gentleman --

24 **A. Right in the middle.**

25 Q. -- right in the middle?

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

2 Q. The hair is not silver at that stage. You would have
3 been just shy of 30. Would that be right?

4 **A. Probably, yes. 29, 30. That is correct.**

5 Q. You seem to have been engaged in hurley.

6 **A. That's correct, yes.**

7 Q. Was that just a reunion of boys playing, and I think
8 that's BR2 we can see on the right-hand side?

9 **A. Do you know I still can't recollect that. That's being
10 honest now. I don't even remember that being taken.**

11 Q. But it's definitely you?

12 **A. Must be the old dementia.**

13 MS DOHERTY: Can we see that?

14 MR AIKEN: You are the one in the bottom row wearing the
15 glasses.

16 **A. I am in the one in the middle -- that's right -- yes, in
17 the front row.**

18 Q. And wearing glasses?

19 **A. Wearing glasses.**

20 Q. To your right is the gentleman in the navy vest?

21 **A. That's right.**

22 Q. You mentioned some of the Brothers have come to these
23 unions that have taken place.

24 **A. That's correct.**

25 Q. And there are some of the Brothers that you formed

1 a good relationship with.

2 **A. Yes. There is. There is one particular one now who is**
3 **not too well at the moment now. It would have been**
4 **Brother -- is it okay to mention his name?**

5 Q. Yes. We will remind that it shouldn't be mentioned
6 beyond the chamber.

7 **A. BR3, which -- he is called BR3 now. He is convalescing**
8 **now down south. He would be well on in years. That's**
9 **the only Brother I can really relate to was BR2 and BR3.**

10 Q. What was it about BR3 that you had this positive
11 interaction with?

12 **A. At the time I went down cycling one time -- BR3 now**
13 **would have went down to the homes when the Brothers were**
14 **on holidays in my time, and the Brothers would have been**
15 **-- you know, there would have been other Brothers that**
16 **would have stepped in. There had to be a certain number**
17 **of Brothers in the home at that particular time.**

18 Q. If I can just pause you, HIA183, what you are describing
19 is BR3 or BR3 was not on the staff of the home --

20 **A. No, not that particular time I was there.**

21 Q. -- but while you were there the normal Brother might
22 have been off on holidays --

23 **A. That's correct, yes.**

24 Q. -- and BR3 would have been there for a week?

25 **A. He would have stepped in for a week or so or**

1 **a fortnight.**

2 Q. Since that time then you have formed a positive
3 relationship with him?

4 **A. Well, in real time I formed a -- it was at that time**
5 **I went down cycling with [REDACTED]. I got to really talk to**
6 **him and I got to really know him, you know. I was on**
7 **the verge of saying to him about the things that had**
8 **happened and rather than rock the boat I didn't say**
9 **anything at all.**

10 Q. This was about BR17?

11 **A. Exactly.**

12 Q. And this would have been in the '70s?

13 **A. Roughly about the '70s, yes, yes.**

14 Q. But in the end you didn't feel able to talk to him about
15 it?

16 **A. That was one of my biggest regrets.**

17 Q. Then, HIA183, we have looked at it in passing, but
18 I just want to complete the cycle, as it were.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. In 2004 then you felt able to unburden what happened to
21 you and explain it to the Order. You had this meeting
22 with them in 2004.

23 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

24 Q. The Panel will be able to read the minute that was kept
25 by the Order --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- on that occasion, and that's 50133.

3 Then in 2009 you wrote to the then Irish Provincial,
4 **BP 5** , and again his name shouldn't be
5 mentioned beyond the chamber. That letter is at 50136
6 and 137. In it you were again setting out -- bring up,
7 please, 50136 -- you were setting out a number of the
8 matters we have talked about today and how you related
9 the difficulty you had over your adult life in terms of
10 you describe a difficulty with tablets that you had --

11 **A. That's right.**

12 Q. -- for a period of time to what happened to you, and you
13 were setting that out for the Irish Provincial.

14 **A. Well, can I relate about those tablets? I remember one**
15 **particular time I was on those tablets and I was going**
16 **through a very difficult time, and I remember coming out**
17 **of mass one particular time and I was at** .
18 **There was a garage. I went over to the garage to get --**
19 **the car needed petrol. So I remember seeing this book**
20 **and it was a book -- it was a coloured book. It was**
21 **a covered book, and it was -- just you see all these**
22 **tablets falling down, you know, and it was a Doctor**
23 **Weekly.**

24 I was on the tablets I must admit. Now I was on
25 them for quite a number of years and I was finding it

1 hard -- you have got to remember I was running
2 a business and I was finding things hard to cope,
3 because at the end of my day I was just totally
4 exhausted, and I remember lifting that book out and
5 reading it, and it must have took me about -- I started
6 about 7 o'clock and I was finishing about 5 o'clock in
7 the morning, and I was able to wean off those tablets,
8 and the book was in Doctor Weekly. It was "How to wean
9 off tablets". Apparently you are supposed to do it
10 inside six or seven months or a year. I do remember
11 going to my own doctor. I am not going to mention his
12 name.

13 Q. No.

14 A. I asked him -- I says, "I would like to wean off these
15 tablets" and he says -- the stupid statement he made was
16 -- he says, "What are these -- what's these industrial
17 people going to do? You are going to put them out of
18 work".

19 Q. You are writing, HIA183, here setting out to the Irish
20 Provincial the difficulty you were having --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and bringing it to his attention.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And do you recollect whether you got a reply from him
25 about --

1 **A. No, I didn't get it. No, I did not.**

2 Q. You then -- I just want to ask you about the police.
3 There was a suggestion from the Order that perhaps at
4 some stage in the '90s the police might have made
5 contact with you --

6 **A. That's correct, yes.**

7 Q. -- and asked you to make a statement and you didn't want
8 to at that stage?

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

10 Q. But did you make a statement to police in 2014?

11 **A. That's correct, yes.**

12 Q. We can see that at 68064, and essentially what you say
13 is because the two particular Brothers that abused you
14 were deceased, you therefore didn't wish to pursue the
15 matter any further.

16 **A. That's correct. That's correct. They weren't there to
17 defend themselves.**

18 Q. In terms of -- you express at paragraph 31, RUB620, your
19 reasons for coming forward to the Inquiry. Just
20 maximise that for me, please.

21 "I came forward because I think there must be
22 accountability. I do not think any child should have to
23 suffer the miserable childhood I had. No parents, no
24 love, no stability, no education. All I wanted was love
25 and I never received it in either home. It took me

1 a long time after I left care to learn how to love.

2 I always mistrusted people."

3 You did make that progression. You talked about
4 your business, and you got married and had children and
5 have grandchildren now.

6 If we just scroll on to the next page, please, you
7 make the point that the State you regard as having
8 abandoned you --

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. -- although you are aware from your discussion with me
11 that your admission into care was a private one and
12 therefore you didn't come to the attention of the State
13 --

14 **A. That's correct.**

15 Q. -- in the way someone coming through the Welfare
16 Authority might have.

17 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

18 Q. There are two last matters, HIA183, that I want to ask
19 you about. We ask each witness this question. At the
20 end of the Inquiry's work the Panel will consider what
21 recommendations they should make to the Northern Ireland
22 Executive and the terms of reference ask the Panel to
23 reflect on a recommendation relating to potentially
24 an apology, some form of memorial or some other redress.

25 Have you any view that you would like to express to

1 the Panel about what recommendations they might
2 consider?

3 **A. I think a memorial would be a good thing, but generally**
4 **I have no hard feelings, strong feelings about it.**
5 **I just leave it up to the Panel.**

6 Q. And the last question, HIA183, that we ask each
7 witness -- obviously it is difficult to come forward and
8 speak in public as you have done today, and this is the
9 opportunity for you to say whatever you would like to
10 the Panel. So if I haven't covered something, or
11 I haven't covered it in enough detail, or there's
12 anything else that you want to add --

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. -- then now would be the time to do that.

15 **A. Personally I think institutions are not a natural**
16 **environment for any child. I think really that they**
17 **shouldn't be -- when I think of the childhood I was**
18 **brought up in, I would hate any of my -- I would hate**
19 **future generations to have to endure what I had to**
20 **suffer. I think institutions are not a healthy**
21 **environment for to bring any child up. I think they**
22 **should be brought up into a care where there is love and**
23 **affection and stability. That's it.**

24 Q. HIA183, I don't want to ask you any other questions, but
25 the Panel may want to ask you something. So if you just

1 remain where you are for a moment.

2 **A. Yes. Okay. No problem. Thank you very much, Joe.**

3 **Questions from THE PANEL**

4 CHAIRMAN: HIA183, earlier this morning you told us about
5 remembering a top Brother coming to Rubane on one
6 occasion and speaking to all the boys. You described
7 how he walked up with you and down in front of the
8 building and he asked you were you happy and you told
9 him that you are -- you were happy.

10 Now you started to explain that and Mr Aiken was
11 asking you about it, but is there anything you would
12 like to explain to us now to say now about -- to give
13 your full reasons why you didn't tell him?

14 **A. The reason is it was fear. I think fear was into me**
15 **right away, because BR17 told me that it was a Superior.**
16 **He put my alert on right away. He says, "The Superior**
17 **wants to speak to you", just left it at that. I met the**
18 **Superior. We walked out round the front garden for**
19 **about twenty minutes, and he did ask me was I happy, but**
20 **you can understand fear was in me all the time, and**
21 **I wasn't going to relate to him that he was unhappy,**
22 **because I knew there might be repercussions, and that's**
23 **the reason why I told him that I was happy, because, as**
24 **you could relate, your Honour, is that I was -- I had no**
25 **living relatives. I had nobody to turn to, but if I had**

1 **had relations outside, I probably would have been more**
2 **straightforward, but I was totally on my own.**

3 Q. Well, you are talking about fear as being part of
4 repercussions. You had no family. Was there anywhere
5 you could have gone if you had left Rubane, because you
6 had no family?

7 **A. There was nowhere, none, your Honour.**

8 Q. So that was your home?

9 **A. That was my home.**

10 Q. You had no alternative?

11 **A. I had no alternative, just to ...**

12 Q. Thank you very much.

13 MS DOHERTY: Thanks, HIA183. Thanks very much. Can I just
14 ask about work that was required of you? Some of the
15 other people have talked about physical labour that was
16 required of them. Do you have any memories of that?

17 **A. Not really, no, no. I don't think I got any physical**
18 **labour, no, no. It wasn't -- none of that happened in**
19 **my time, you know, but it might have happened in the**
20 **early years.**

21 Q. Okay, but that wasn't there?

22 **A. There wasn't -- not in my time, no.**

23 Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA183.

24 **A. That's all right.**

25 MR LANE: You mentioned that when the boys left, a lot of

1 them couldn't read or write. I was just wondering in
2 a typical school day what were the sort of things that
3 you did? What sort of subjects did you cover?

4 **A. I think it was English and maths just. That's it, you**
5 **know. I think -- maybe I am totally wrong, you know.**
6 **I think the Brothers -- the environment you are brought**
7 **up in, you know, half of our lads I think like myself**
8 **were probably damaged, damaged children, you know, and**
9 **our brains weren't stimulated. You know what I mean.**
10 **That's where -- I had no stimulation in education.**
11 **There was nobody -- you never got any homework**
12 **afterwards. Really what I am trying say is there was no**
13 **sort of follow-up in our education. In other words,**
14 **nobody was there to say, for instance -- say somebody**
15 **who was very slow at reading or writing, you never got**
16 **any -- you never got any moral support or help on**
17 **a one-to-one basis. I think that a great lot of our**
18 **lads really needed that, but we didn't receive that.**

19 Q. Were there books around the place?

20 **A. Not really, no.**

21 Q. Not in the -- not in the main house?

22 **A. No, there was no book. I don't remember -- recollect**
23 **any books lying around.**

24 Q. Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA183, I'm sure you will be relieved to

1 hear we don't have any more questions for you.

2 **A. Hallelujah!**

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

4 **A. Thanks very much.**

5 Q. As far as we are concerned that's it. So you are free
6 to leave now if you wish.

7 **A. Thanks very much, Chairman.**

8 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Ms Smith is taking the next witness,
9 who expects to give evidence after lunch.

10 CHAIRMAN: Can we try to make an effort to start at 1.45
11 perhaps if everyone is ready? If not, we will start as
12 soon after that as possible.

13 (12.35 pm)

14 (Lunch break)

15 (1.45 pm)

16 MS SMITH: Chairman and Panel Members, just before we start
17 with the next witness can I just say that this morning
18 I made reference to a medical report that had been
19 handed into the Inquiry by the first witness who gave
20 evidence this morning, HIA97. That's HIA97. Just to
21 let you know where that is in the bundle, it can now be
22 found at pages 50500 to 51570. In fact, there are two
23 medical reports.

24 CHAIRMAN: Allow us a moment to find that. So it is not the
25 psychiatric report?

1 MS SMITH: There is a psychiatric report.

2 CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's what we had, but this --

3 MS SMITH: There's a further medical now. The page
4 references which encompass both -- it looks like the
5 psychiatric report has been put in beside the one he
6 handed in last night, which is 50500 through to 51570.
7 I think that can't be right. That would be an awful lot
8 of pages. It might be I have written that down
9 incorrectly. I suspect that it is.

10 CHAIRMAN: If we get the first page, we know where to start.

11 So it is 5...?

12 MS SMITH: I would look at 51570, Chairman, just. It is in
13 and around that area. I will double check and confirm
14 that later.

15 CHAIRMAN: Is that a GP's report?

16 MS SMITH: No, it is a report from a Mr Fogarty about the
17 scarring.

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

19 WITNESS HIA390 (called)

20 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is HIA390. He wishes
21 to maintain the anonymity that has been afforded to him
22 by the Inquiry and he also wishes to take the oath.

23 CHAIRMAN: Very well.

24 WITNESS HIA390 (sworn)

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down.

1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

2 MS SMITH: Now, HIA390, I'm going to call up on the screen
3 the witness statement that we've look at earlier today,
4 which is yours that you've prepared for the Inquiry and
5 that's RUB739.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And you'll see that instead of your name there it says
8 "HIA390".

9 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. If we could just go to the last page of that, which is
11 744, and you have the original in front or a copy of the
12 original in front of you, HIA390, where your signature
13 can be seen there, where it says "HIA390".

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And it is dated 2nd of March of this year, 2014?

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. Can I just ask you to confirm, HIA390, this is the
18 statement of evidence that you wish the Inquiry to
19 consider together with anything that you tell us here
20 this afternoon?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. For the benefit of the Panel Members, the response
23 statement can be found at RUB2063 to 2065 with one
24 exhibit at 2067.

25 There's a short statement from the Health & Social

1 Care Board at RUB8046 to 47. Essentially the Health &
2 Social Care Board have been unable to find any file in
3 respect of HIA390, despite the fact that the indicators
4 are that he was placed in Rubane -- when he was placed
5 in Rubane Down Welfare were involved.

6 Now, HIA390, if we just go back to the first page of
7 your statement at 739, in this you set out some of the
8 details of your family background, and you say that when
9 you first went to the home, it was with your older
10 brother, who was called -- I am going to use his name,
11 but his name is not to be used outside the chamber any
12 more than yours is. His name was DL 399. Isn't that
13 correct?

14 **A. That's correct.**

15 Q. But you say there was another brother, another older
16 brother who was already there, and his name was ^{DL 400}?

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

18 Q. Now you are aware from the conversation that we have had
19 before you gave evidence that the Order can find no
20 record of ^{DL 400} having attended in Rubane when you were
21 there, but you're quite sure he was there?

22 **A. Absolutely. 100%.**

23 Q. And the other thing that they say is that you talk about
24 DL 399 having been in -- at paragraph 5 maybe, if we
25 could just go to that please, paragraph 5 you talk about

1 yourself and DL 399 going into the home, and you say:

2 "Some time after we went into the home, maybe
3 a year, DL 399 was sent to Muckamore."

4 **A. Yes, that's right.**

5 Q. "I don't know why he went there, because he seemed all
6 right, intelligent enough."

7 You didn't see him again until you came out of the
8 home --

9 **A. That's correct.**

10 Q. -- and at that stage he seemed much worse to you than
11 the last time you had seen him?

12 **A. That's correct.**

13 Q. Now you went in -- in 1958 you went into the De La Salle
14 Home.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But I'm going to come to that in a moment, because
17 there's an issue about your admission also, but I just
18 want to say that the Order have said from their records
19 your Brother was actually in Rubane for about seven
20 years and he only left for Muckamore about a month
21 before you left, by which stage he was over 18.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. Now is that your memory of what happened?

24 **A. No, no. I honestly believe that DL 399 was there maybe
25 about six months, it could have been a year, after we**

1 **went in and then DL 399 wasn't there.**

2 Q. You think he left --

3 **A. Before.**

4 Q. -- much earlier --

5 **A. Much --**

6 Q. -- than the seven years that the Order have said he was
7 there?

8 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

9 Q. Just to be clear so that the Panel know, you've spoken
10 to Mr Napier and Mr Rooney for the Order --

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. -- and they have said they obtained that information
13 from the Register of Admissions and Discharges, and
14 while they didn't exhibit that page to the statement
15 that they provided to us, they are going to obtain that
16 for us and we will get that and we will be able to check
17 the details out from that, but certainly your memory is
18 that he was only there for a short period --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- before he left. The other thing, if I can just come
21 on then to page -- we have looked at this, about how you
22 came to be in, and your memory is that at paragraph 4
23 I think, if we could just scroll back up to that --
24 sorry. Paragraph 3 -- I beg your pardon -- you say that
25 your last memory of your father was in a court room.

1 You thought you had been put into Rubane for stealing
2 a watch.

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

4 Q. Is that right?

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. Having been told that you were committed on a Care
7 Order, you thought that maybe that's why you were in
8 court, but your abiding memory of is going into Rubane
9 only once?

10 **A. Yes, that's right.**

11 Q. The Order have said, in fact, what happened was you went
12 in in -- there was -- you were initially admitted to
13 Rubane on 29th January 1958, and that there was then
14 a Committal Order -- a technical court order was then
15 revoked on 19th May and you were handed back to your
16 parents at that stage. Then, true enough, whenever you
17 were before the court for this theft of a watch in 1960,
18 you were returned to Rubane. Do you ever remember in
19 your time at Rubane going back home?

20 **A. No, I don't remember it whatsoever. I remember only
21 going in once and that was the day I left the court.**

22 Q. You think that was certainly this time whenever you were
23 there with your father?

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

25 Q. Now I am going to ask you a little bit about life --

1 what life was like in the home generally and deal with
2 some of the issues that you raise in your statement
3 about that, HIA390.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. At paragraph 11 you talk about the food that was
6 provided in the home. and you say there that the food
7 was plain. You had porridge, bread and butter for
8 breakfast. You think you had eggs as well. You don't
9 remember lunch. Is it possible you might have got lunch
10 in the school?

11 **A. No, we never had lunch in the school, no. Never had
12 anything to eat in the school whatsoever.**

13 Q. But say dinner was usually potatoes, vegetables and
14 sometimes meat. You remember sausages and beans, but
15 you remember being hungry?

16 **A. I do.**

17 Q. You say you didn't see what the Brothers ate, but they
18 always had their meals in the dining room of the main
19 house?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. They didn't eat with you --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- and you don't believe that they ate the same food as
24 you. Where did you eat?

25 **A. We ate in a dining room which was down the stairs from**

1 the main house. Their dining room was up the stairs
2 where their bedrooms and their lounge and what not was,
3 you know. They definitely didn't eat with us. They ate
4 up there. We ate downstairs in the dining hall.

5 Q. The Brothers of the Order would say the food was basic
6 but was varied, and that generally the brothers ate the
7 same as what you did?

8 A. No, I wouldn't have thought they would have ate the same
9 as what we ate, definitely not.

10 Q. Why do you say that, HIA390?

11 A. Well, ours was pretty basic. I mean, more than basic.
12 You know, I can't see the Christian Brothers eating
13 literally what we ate, you know.

14 Q. That's just something you feel rather than something you
15 actually saw. Is that right?

16 A. Yes. We didn't see what they ate at all.

17 Q. Paragraph 14 you talk about every year you were sent to
18 pick potatoes for three or four weeks. You say you all
19 went to different farms. You would be out in all
20 weathers, were not dressed for the weather. You
21 remember the farmer would give you tea and sandwiches or
22 soup for lunch. You think you got paid sixpence a week
23 or maybe sixpence a day, which you would spend on --
24 money on sweets in the tuck shop?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You name two Brothers there who ran the tuck shop, or
2 you say it was whoever was on duty in the evening in the
3 home who ran the tuck shop?

4 **A. Yes, that's right.**

5 Q. So would you be able to go to the tuck shop every day?

6 **A. No, no. The tuck shop was -- if I can remember rightly,
7 was at the weekends, Saturday, maybe Sunday. It
8 certainly wasn't every night, because we didn't have the
9 money to go to it every night, you know. Your money was
10 probably all spent the first night.**

11 Q. Just if I can ask you about the money, did the farmers
12 pay you that money directly or did the Brothers give you
13 the money?

14 **A. No, the Brothers paid it to us, you know.**

15 Q. And just about working on the farm, the Order would say
16 that certainly after 1964, which was after -- just about
17 a year before you left the home --

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. -- you wouldn't have been sent out to work in the wet or
20 cold.

21 **A. I mean, I was definitely out in the wet. There was many
22 times we were picking potatoes when it was raining, you
23 know. There's no doubt about that.**

24 Q. And how were you taken? You talk about going to other
25 farms.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. To -- were they -- we know that Rubane had a very big
3 farm itself.

4 **A. It did. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. Are you sure you didn't just work in that farm --

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. -- or what was the position?

8 **A. No. I remember being taken on the back of a tractor and**
9 **trailer to various farms. You could have been on the**
10 **tractor for maybe half an hour, three-quarters of**
11 **an hour going to different farms to pick potatoes, you**
12 **know. It wasn't -- it wasn't one farm all the time. It**
13 **wasn't the farm that the Brothers ran. You know, to**
14 **have picking potatoes and that there on the Brothers'**
15 **farm, you know, you would have had to have a squad of**
16 **workers, which they didn't have. They basically had**
17 **some cattle is all I can remember, but definitely**
18 **picking potatoes was on different farms of land, because**
19 **we seen the farmers coming out with -- it was normally**
20 **their wives would come out and hand us tea, sandwiches,**
21 **soup, whatever, you know, and it was definitely one of**
22 **their farms. It wasn't the Brothers' farm.**

23 Q. If I can just move on to paragraph 17, you say that at
24 Christmas time up remember civilian people coming into
25 the home.

1 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. And they brought presents, a gun in a holster or another
3 toy and you say you were allowed to keep these presents?

4 **A. That's right.**

5 Q. That's your memory of Christmas. Is there anything else
6 that you remember about Christmas? Did you ever go out
7 anywhere?

8 **A. I remember once we went to Belfast, some sort of a hall,
9 for Christmas and there we were given Christmas dinner
10 and I think maybe presents again, but other than that
11 I don't remember any other Christmas as being any
12 different from any other day of the week.**

13 Q. What about birthdays in the home, HIA390? Were they
14 celebrated?

15 **A. No, definitely not.**

16 Q. Do you ever remember concerts around Christmas time or
17 anything --

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. -- when you were there?

20 **A. No.**

21 Q. You talk in paragraph 18 about a memory you have about
22 your mother coming to visit, and you say there that she
23 wasn't there for more than about twenty minutes or half
24 an hour. Is this the only time you remember her coming
25 to visit or did she come more than once?

1 A. No, she only come the once where I got to see her for
2 ten or fifteen minutes or whatever it was, and after
3 I got out I asked her why she didn't come more often,
4 and she told me that she was told by the Brothers that
5 she wouldn't be allowed back, because it would upset the
6 children, you know, and so she never -- she never come
7 back again.

8 Q. On this time that she did come and you had this visit
9 with her, were you alone, or was DL 399 with you, or what
10 was the position?

11 A. I was with her on my own.

12 Q. And where did the visit take place?

13 A. In a -- they had a -- up in the big house they had
14 a special room. Whether it was -- I don't know. It was
15 like a sitting room, but that's where I met her, and
16 I remember going outside for the time that we were
17 there, and we walked around the front of the house and
18 that was it, you know, and away she went then. That was
19 the last time I seen her until I got out of the home.

20 Q. You say that you never saw another parent, because you
21 would have met the parents in this big reception?

22 A. Well, you would certainly have seen them or somebody
23 would have talked about their mothers and fathers was up
24 or whatever, and nobody ever did.

25 Q. You also say that your mum told you she'd brought toys

1 and comics with her, but you never saw those?

2 **A. No, I never got them.**

3 Q. At paragraph 20, if we could just look at that briefly,
4 you say the whole time you were there you never saw
5 a doctor.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You often wonder about that. The Order would say that
8 there was a medical examination every year carried out
9 by the local GP.

10 **A. Never seen a doctor in the whole six years I was there.**

11 **I would have known if I had seen a doctor. I never seen**
12 **one.**

13 Q. And you say that you if you got a bad beating, there was
14 nobody to patch you up.

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. And you do recall one incident where you were sick in
17 the home.

18 **A. Yes, that's right.**

19 Q. And that was when you -- you say there were about
20 a dozen of you came down with 'flu and you spent three
21 or four days in the big house.

22 **A. Yes. Next door to the Brothers' sitting room there was**
23 **bedrooms for the other boys and we were housed into one**
24 **of the bedrooms. I remember being in there with the**
25 **'flu three, four, five days, whatever it was, but nobody**

1 ever come. Somebody probably did come and give us
2 drinks of water or juice or whatever, but there was
3 never any doctor came in to check us over or anything
4 like that there. The 'flu went away and that was it.
5 We were back to square one.

6 Q. Can I just ask where you stayed when you were in the
7 house? You say that this was a room with beds in it in
8 the big house. Is that where you stayed?

9 A. No, I stayed down in the annex, which was on the other
10 side of the farm. You had to walk through the farm to
11 get to it, and there was another house there and that's
12 where we stayed.

13 Q. And were there Brothers who stayed in that house with
14 you?

15 A. Yes, BR15. That was the only Brother stayed down there.

16 Q. Can I just ask you at paragraph 19 there you do remember
17 a particular incident when you were taken to the dentist
18 in Newtownards?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. You remember you were taken out of the home by a welfare
21 officer?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. On that same day you also have a memory of going to
24 visit your elder sister, who was in lodgings in
25 Donaghadee at that time.

1 **A. That's right. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. And you were given ice-cream and it didn't seem to agree
3 with you.

4 **A. That's right. I was sick after it. I remember it well.**

5 Q. That's the only time -- that's the only time you
6 remember anybody coming to visit you -- is that right --
7 apart from your mother's visit?

8 **A. That was the only time anybody ever come to see me from
9 Welfare, anybody. It was the only time, just the once.**

10 Q. Can I ask you do you ever remember going on holiday from
11 Rubane at any stage?

12 **A. We would have went to like a retreat. It was another
13 big house down by Waterfoot, and I remember being there
14 twice. We went down there for two weeks in the
15 summertime, and basically it wasn't anything different
16 than the home. You done basically the same sort of
17 stuff except for school. You didn't go to school, and
18 we didn't go every year, because other -- obviously
19 other homes had to have their turn at it. So I remember
20 being in it twice.**

21 Q. And do you remember did you ever go out on any day trips
22 from the home?

23 **A. We would go -- pardon me -- we would go walking down to
24 the beach. Some people went into the beach. Some
25 didn't. Some just went walking up and you down the**

1 **beach until it was time to go back up to the house**
2 **again. You just run around and played around the house**
3 **basically and that was about it.**

4 Q. I am going to ask -- you talk in paragraph 12 about some
5 Brothers who you name there. I am going to ask you just
6 about this now. You will see that we have given
7 designations to these Brothers and I'm going to use the
8 names, but again they are not to be used outside the
9 chamber. You say in paragraph 12 that certain Brothers
10 that you remember -- you remember BR6, who you name as
11 BR6.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And BR63, do you remember BR63?

14 **A. I do.**

15 Q. And you remember that BR6 was an old man?

16 **A. That's right. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. Can you remember any other Brothers' names who were
18 there at the time?

19 **A. Well, it was obviously BR15, BR63. There -- BR12 or**
20 **BR12 seems to come to mind. I can't honestly swear if**
21 **that was the proper name, but it sounded like that.**
22 **There was obviously the other Brothers there, but I just**
23 **can't remember their names now.**

24 Q. You believe that BR6 was the person who ran the farm
25 when you were there?

1 **A. Yes, I think so, because when we went there, my eldest**
2 **brother** ^{DL 400} **that was already in the home, he worked on**
3 **farm, you know, and I'd seen him in the mornings going**
4 **down to the farm with BR6. So ...**

5 Q. You describe BR6 as an old man.

6 **A. He was. He was an elderly man.**

7 Q. Is there anything else that you remember about him or
8 did you have any contact with him?

9 **A. We had very little contact. The only other time we**
10 **would see him was when he was walking towards the farm**
11 **or coming back. You know, we had no contact other than**
12 **that with him.**

13 Q. I am going to ask you -- you talk about BR15 at
14 paragraph 6. I am going to come on now to some of the
15 specific things that you complain about about your time
16 there. You say that you thought that BR15 was in charge
17 of the admin for the home?

18 **A. He was. He was in charge of sort of everyday tasks in**
19 **the home, whether it was laundry, when you were going**
20 **for your meals. He was certainly in charge of us when**
21 **we were down in the place where we slept down in the**
22 **annex, because he slept there himself, and he took to do**
23 **with the clothes that you wore, clothes that you were**
24 **given.**

25 Q. So when you say -- talk about the admin, he was

1 responsible for looking after your care on a day-to-day
2 basis rather than keeping the books or that kind of
3 admin?

4 **A. Yes, basically. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You describe him there. You say that he used to go into
6 Belfast once a month at least. You would say when he
7 came back late at night, you knew that he had drink on
8 him --

9 **A. Yes, that's right.**

10 Q. -- because you could smell it?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. He would come into your room. You would be in your bunk
13 beds and he would lash out with a whip at everybody in
14 sight.

15 **A. That's right.**

16 Q. Now just -- you've described you were sleeping in the
17 farmhouse, the annex dormitory. One of the things the
18 Order have said is that there were no bunk beds.

19 **A. There was bunk beds. I was in -- I remember I was in
20 the top one. There was somebody in the bottom, and it
21 was the same in that particular room that we were in.
22 There was another three rooms. There was four rooms
23 altogether, two downstairs and two upstairs.**

24 Q. So certainly in your time that was --

25 **A. It was bunk beds.**

1 Q. -- what the sleeping arrangements were?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you've also said that there was one boy in
4 particular, who you name in that statement, and I am not
5 going to give his name, but you say that that boy wasn't
6 -- as you describe him, not quite right, and you say
7 that he used to get an awful lot of battering, and you
8 describe the boy as sitting and rocking backwards and
9 forwards. You say that this Brother picked on him and
10 you were very afraid of this Brother, and you knew that
11 when he came in, he was going to beat you.

12 A. That's right. He would come in. You would hear the
13 screams from downstairs at first when he would start on
14 the bottom two rooms, and you knew he was working his
15 way up to the top, and this fella that you have
16 mentioned wasn't in my room. He was in the next room
17 opposite, and you could hear the screams from that room
18 and then we knew we were getting it. He came in then to
19 our room --

20 Q. This --

21 A. -- and lashed out with a whip, which he carried.

22 Q. HIA390, can you describe this particular BR15?

23 A. He was , , , brutal, absolutely
24 brutal. I mean, we were whipped for no reason
25 whatsoever, just whatever satisfaction he got out of it,

1 but you knew when he went to Belfast in the minibus --
2 why he went -- I don't know whether he went there to
3 collect clothes for the children or whatever, but when
4 he came back, he always smelled of drink, alcohol,
5 always, all the time, and you knew nine times out of ten
6 you were getting it for no reason whatsoever.

7 Q. And you say the reason you knew that he smelt of alcohol
8 is because of -- I am not going to go to paragraph 16 --
9 but you could smell the communion wine as a -- when you
10 helped serve at mass?

11 A. I may have been 9, 10 years old, but I knew what alcohol
12 smelt like, because I used to be an altar boy in the
13 home, and we used to serve the wine to the priest. The
14 smell of the wine was the smell that came off BR15. It
15 was definitely -- he was definitely with drink in him.

16 Q. You also describe abuse in paragraph 7. You say you are
17 sure there was sexual abuse going on at the home. You
18 remember a younger boy -- again you give his name
19 there -- every time you went into the television room
20 BR15 was sitting with this boy at the back of the room
21 and you believe that he was sexually playing with him.
22 You say you did not see anything specific, but this
23 Brother was always wrestling with this child, and you
24 remember feeling at the time that something sexual was
25 going on?

1 **A.** That's right. It just -- it didn't -- it was always the
2 same boy at the back with BR15 and at the back of the
3 television room. The whole television room was dark,
4 but especially at the back it was extremely dark, and
5 they were always gagging around, him and BR15, and to me
6 in my opinion I think there was something going on, you
7 know.

8 Q. But you don't know what?

9 **A.** I don't know what it was, but ...

10 Q. And if we could just go on down to paragraph 15, first
11 of all, please. You say that you felt -- you say there
12 was a communal shower and whichever Brother was on duty
13 on the night would stand and look at you. You thought
14 then and you still feel they were looking at you in
15 a sexual manner. You say some of the boys would try to
16 hide themselves from the stares -- stares. Yes. You
17 showered maybe once a week. The water was warm, but you
18 remember being cold.

19 Now can I just ask you did you wear anything while
20 you were in the shower?

21 **A.** No, we didn't.

22 Q. You didn't wear swimming shorts or anything like that?

23 **A.** No, nothing at all.

24 Q. The Order would say it would be necessary to supervise
25 showers in case boys interfered with each other, if I

1 can put it that way. Were you aware of anything like
2 that going on in your time in Rubane?

3 **A. There was nothing of that nature going on between the**
4 **boys whatsoever. I mean, we were children, you know.**
5 **We didn't know what -- if you like, what sex was all**
6 **about, you know. It would have been totally abnormal**
7 **for anything like that to be going on between the boys.**

8 Q. If I can go back then to paragraph 8 of your statement,
9 HIA390, you say that you ended up in the class where the
10 head Brother taught. Do you remember his name at all?

11 **A. I don't remember his name, no. I remember what he**
12 **looked like. I don't remember his name.**

13 Q. Can you say what he looked like?

14 **A. He was again, , another brutal man.**

15 Q. You say that he used to walk up and down the
16 classroom aisles, and if he just took it into his head,
17 you got a slap on the back of the neck, to the side of
18 the head with a small leather strap that he carried on
19 his belt?

20 **A. That's right. He would have walked up and down, and if**
21 **you would have finished your work, he would have looked**
22 **over your shoulder to see if your work was done, and if**
23 **it wasn't done to his satisfaction, there was no**
24 **warning. You just got a smack with the leather strap,**
25 **whether it was the side of the head, across the top of**

1 the head, across the side of the face, wherever, just
2 whatever took his fancy, if you like, and this was
3 a regular basis. This was every day of the week in
4 class.

5 Q. And you think this man would have been about 50 at that
6 time?

7 A. He would have easily been 50, 50-ish, 55.

8 Q. You also talk in paragraph 9 about the fact you weren't
9 allowed to play soccer, that you had to play Gaelic.
10 You recall an incident where four or five of you were
11 playing soccer. You were brought up and you were caned
12 for doing so?

13 A. That's right. Uh-huh.

14 Q. You saw other boys caned for different things. You saw
15 blood running from the tips of their hands afterwards,
16 and you saw one boy who you named there, his ear being
17 half sliced off one time he was hit so hard with the
18 cane?

19 A. That's right. He was brought up in front of the class.
20 For what reason I just can't -- I can't remember, but he
21 was a boy that when you put your hand out to go to get
22 caned, he would always pull his hand back like that, and
23 more times than enough his hand would have ended up like
24 this, and he, the Brother, when he went to cane him, he
25 couldn't get caning him. So he must have give up the

1 ghost and just let fly whether his hand was up there or
2 not, and that's why he got it on the ear, and I seen
3 other boys being brought up for whether it was copying
4 the next -- boy next to them or not and caned and I like
5 literally seen blood coming from the tips of their
6 fingers from that particular Brother.

7 Q. Is this the Brother who you've described as the 50 year
8 old man who was small --

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. -- and bald?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. You said that the Brothers would use a bamboo cane like
13 a shepherd's crook you've described it?

14 A. That's right. That's what they used in class.

15 Q. You said that they would get up on their tippy-toes to
16 beat you?

17 A. To give you as hard as they could hit you with full
18 force.

19 Q. BR15 you describe was worse when he was drunk, but he
20 would also hit you when he was sober. This incidence in
21 the bedroom wasn't the only time you were hit by him.

22 A. It wasn't the only time. There was times when you would
23 be sitting outside waiting to go in for your evening
24 meal. If somebody talked in the communal area where we
25 would sit, he would come down and he would take off --

1 he also carried a leather strap on his belt, and he
2 would let fly at the first eight or nine people there
3 and go up round the side and start hitting the other
4 ones on the other side as well, you know, for no reason
5 whatsoever.

6 Q. One of the things the Order have said is that the sutans
7 that the Brothers wore, they didn't wear a belt with
8 them. Is that your recollection?

9 A. No, they wore a broad leather belt around the middle, so
10 they did, and a strap hung from the leather belt.

11 Q. HIA390, that's all I am going to ask you about your time
12 in Rubane, but is there anything you feel we haven't
13 covered in your evidence this afternoon? Is there
14 anything else that you want to say about your time
15 there?

16 A. It's just that the brutality of the place should never
17 have been allowed to happen. It was brutal. I mean, we
18 were children. That's what we were. We were children.
19 We weren't adults that was put in jail for something.
20 We were children. We were 9, 10, and to be treated the
21 way we were treated, words couldn't describe it. It was
22 brutal, absolutely brutal, and if there's a heaven and
23 a hell, BR15 is bound to be stoking the fires of hell,
24 because that's where he belongs.

25 Q. HIA390, thank you, and I can see that this has been

1 a difficult afternoon for you. There's just one further
2 question that I want to ask you, and it's a question
3 that we ask of everyone who comes to speak to the
4 Inquiry, and you are aware that the Inquiry has to make
5 recommendations to the government as to what should
6 happen next, and we ask everyone what your views are on
7 what you think should happen to -- whether by form of
8 redress or a monument or memorial to mark what has
9 happened to you and to others like you in institutions?

10 **A. Well, I mean, us as children, basically our childhood**
11 **was taken away from us, you know. I lost six years of**
12 **a childhood. Any money, memorial, anything like that**
13 **will never bring back the six years that I lost, you**
14 **know. I am here today to give my statement of what**
15 **happened. We know what happened. We were there. We**
16 **went through hell, absolute hell, and for that, that**
17 **should never have happened, never. There is no**
18 **monument, money, statue, whatever, can ever replace the**
19 **six years that was lost or any of the other boys that**
20 **was there, and this is my statement, and I am sure the**
21 **other boys that come forward will have similar stories,**
22 **and to me the Christian Brothers are 100% responsible**
23 **for what went on in that home and also the Welfare for**
24 **putting us there for absolutely no reason whatsoever,**
25 **and it was six years of my life that I don't ever want**

1 to remember. Brutal. It was -- words couldn't describe
2 it. I don't think there's a word in the English
3 dictionary could describe what went on in that home, and
4 for not to have inspections -- and they say there was
5 inspections this and inspections that. I can assure you
6 there wasn't. It didn't happen. We should know. We
7 were there. We went through it on a daily basis year
8 after year until the day I left, and it was the happiest
9 day of my life was walking out of that home.

10 Q. HIA390, thank you very much. I have nothing further to
11 ask you, but the Panel Members may have some questions
12 that they want to put to you.

13 Questions from THE PANEL

14 CHAIRMAN: HIA390, can I just ask you to go back to what
15 Ms Smith asked you about really close to the beginning
16 of your evidence about the potato picking?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You described how you would get some money for doing
19 that. It is not quite clear to me whether you were paid
20 extra money for the potato gathering or whether this was
21 in place of pocket money or what the position was?

22 **A. No, I think it was extra money we got.**

23 Q. And have you any sort of idea about what the amount was?

24 **A. I -- I think it was sixpence a day. It was either**
25 **sixpence a day or a shilling a week, something like**

1 **that. It certainly wasn't -- it wasn't any more.**

2 Q. And when you say you got paid extra or got extra, does
3 that mean that you got a basic amount of pocket money as
4 well each week from the Brothers? Can you remember
5 that?

6 A. **I can't remember getting pocket money every week outside
7 of potato gathering, but we must have done, because we
8 were always at the tuck shop, you know, whenever it was
9 open. So we didn't get that for free I'm sure. We
10 probably did get pocket money. I can't actually
11 remember them coming out and saying, "Right. There's
12 your money for this week. There's your money for this
13 week" and so on, but we must have done to be able to
14 spend in the tuck shop.**

15 Q. Thank you very much.

16 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much, HIA390, for giving your
17 testimony. Can I just ask about preparation for leaving
18 care? Did you feel that you got any preparation at all
19 for your life after Rubane?

20 A. **No, none whatsoever. I remember the day I was leaving.
21 It was a warm, sunny day, and I was given I think it was
22 a ticket for the bus, and the bus was about half a mile
23 up the road, the main Portaferry Road. I was told what
24 number of bus to get, and I went -- walked from the home
25 to there with a small suitcase and got on the bus, and**

1 I was met in Belfast by it must have been the Welfare or
2 somebody that met me and took me to lodgings on the
3 Falls Road, but preparation for leaving the home and
4 going in -- from being a 9-year-old going in to
5 a 15-year-old coming out and basically going to
6 a different world, if you like, as an adult, there was
7 no preparations from the Brothers, none from the home
8 whatsoever. You were 15. You are gone. Goodbye,
9 and that was basically it, you know. That was a sad
10 part of it too, that you were going to something totally
11 different, you know. It is not like you were at home.
12 You were growing up. You were growing up amongst
13 family, friends and as the years went on, you knew what
14 to expect. You were coming from an institution where
15 you were battered and bruised to something that was
16 totally new to you. You just -- you didn't know what to
17 expect, but, you know, it was a great day to be leaving
18 that home. It really was.

19 Q. Okay. Can I -- just a final thing. I mean, you've
20 talked very clearly about the impact of you -- on you as
21 a child of being in the home. Do you want to say
22 anything about the impact as a young adult or as
23 an adult in terms of, you know, is there any ongoing
24 impact for you in terms of having been in the home?

25 A. No. I try to put it out of my head. Once I got out of

1 the home, once I moved into lodgings, the family that I
2 lodge with, they had a son and a daughter, and the
3 next-door-neighbour, there was two sons, and we all
4 seemed to get on together, and we ran around together,
5 and they sort of took me under their wing type of thing.
6 They knew that I had a come from a home and things was
7 totally strange to me and they looked after me until the
8 day I joined the army.

9 Q. Okay. I'm glad that happened. Thank you.

10 MR LANE: Thank you for your evidence. Just one small area
11 I'd like to ask you about and that's the way that the
12 tuck shop ran. Was there a particular room or did
13 people just bring stuff out on a tray or --

14 A. No, no, there was like a room with a counter, like a wee
15 --

16 Q. Uh-huh.

17 A. -- shop you would see in the country type of thing. The
18 sweets was behind it in boxes. You went in and you
19 pointed to whatever you wanted, you know, be it a Mars
20 bar or whatever sort of bar, you know. The Brother
21 would be standing behind. He would take your money and
22 away you went and ate it.

23 Q. Was it just sweets that they sold?

24 A. Oh, it was just sweets, aye. There was no other --

25 Q. No cigarettes?

1 **A. No cigarettes, no alcohol.**

2 Q. Nothing else?

3 **A. No, no, just sweets.**

4 Q. Okay. Thanks.

5 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA390, thank you very much indeed for
6 coming to speak to us today. We are very grateful to
7 you for doing that. I am sure you will be glad to hear
8 as far as we are concerned that's the end of your
9 evidence today. Thank you very much.

10 **A. Thank you, Mr Chairman.**

11 **(Witness withdrew)**

12 MS SMITH: Chairman, Mr Aiken is going to deal with the next
13 piece of evidence, and perhaps it is appropriate to take
14 a very short break just to allow him to come in.

15 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 (2.30 pm)

17 (Short break)

18 (2.35 pm)

19 STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTS OF WITNESS HIA159 (read)

20 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, good afternoon.

21 The material that I'm going to deal with now is from
22 a gentleman by the name of HIA159, who is "HIA159".

23 HIA159, as he is known to his wife, died on

24 and his wife has travelled over

25 today from Leeds, and she is at the back next to Ellen,

1 and there's a lady sitting between Ellen and Anna. She
2 has come over to hear her husband's material be dealt
3 with.

4 If we could bring up, please, the witness statement
5 at 786, the Panel will be aware that provided
6 a witness statement to the Inquiry of 23rd March 2014.
7 If we just scroll down a little, please, we can see that
8 this statement exhibited a typed document that HIA159
9 and daughter had typed up in respect of his
10 experiences in both Nazareth Lodge and Rubane House.

11 If we just move over, please, to 787, we can --
12 scroll down a little further, please -- we can see --
13 just keep going down -- it has been signed by , who
14 is present.

15 I don't propose, Chairman and Members of the Panel,
16 to ask to come forward to adopt that statement, but
17 I am sure by just simply asking her for a nod of her
18 head she will confirm she adopts that statement and by
19 nodding confirming that her daughter typed up her
20 husband's reflections, and she is kindly nodding to the
21 Inquiry that that's the position.

22 CHAIRMAN: I should perhaps just explain to the public in
23 general on this opportunity that tragically there are
24 a number of people who are no longer with us, because
25 they have died since the Inquiry started. Some were

1 able to make statements and sign them. Others were not,
2 and in this case this statement was made before the
3 Inquiry came into existence, but as it is authenticated
4 by we accept it as her husband's evidence and
5 there is no need for her to go through the formality of
6 saying any more than has been said today.

7 MR AIKEN: If we can go back up, please, to the previous
8 page, 786, you will see in paragraph 4, Members of the
9 Panel, that has said to the Inquiry:

10 "My husband always said he wanted his statement
11 outlining his version of events to be taken into account
12 and he wanted what happened to him and others in care to
13 be recognised at some stage."

14 I know from speaking to that she very much
15 appreciates the Panel taking this material into
16 consideration and having the opportunity to consider her
17 husband's views and the experience that he had in Rubane
18 and we will look at in summary form some of those
19 matters over the next short while.

20 HIA159 was born on His admission
21 record to Rubane records that at RUB2162. I don't
22 propose to bring that up. He spent his early life in
23 Nazareth Lodge, and is aware that the Inquiry
24 will return to look at Nazareth Lodge in future, and we
25 will make arrangements to provide her with the

1 transcript of our analysis of that when it occurs.

2 He entered Rubane on 12th August 1957, aged , and
3 he remained in Rubane until 27th October 1960, when he
4 was , and he followed what might be considered
5 a pattern that's emerging of those boys who transfer
6 from Nazareth Lodge and who then spent some of their
7 teenage years in Rubane before moving out in connection
8 with the Nazareth Lodge Welfare Committee into some form
9 of employment.

10 We are not going to look at today, but you will when
11 we come to look at Nazareth Lodge see that HIA159 lost
12 in Nazareth Lodge when hit by a stick, and he
13 describes thereafter having an and how
14 that impacted on his life in terms of getting employment
15 when he was older, but he describes Rubane House at 791.
16 If we can just go to 791, please, this is, as
17 I indicated, a typed-up statement of his reflections
18 typed by his daughter. If we just scroll down, please,
19 and after recounting his experiences in Nazareth Lodge,
20 he says this:

21 "Rubane House was a couple of miles outside
22 a village called Kircubbin. I went there when I was
23 years old until the age of 15 to start work."

24 Then he refers to BR17, so BR17, who was, as you
25 know, of the home from September 1956 through to

1 1962. So throughout the period that HIA159 was in
2 Rubane BR17 was both the of the home and the
3 in the school. He says:

4 "Rubane House run by the De La Salle Brothers who
5 were just as vicious as the nuns. Some Brothers were
6 easy going but at other times they could be very brutal
7 and some boys were sexually abused and others were
8 physically abused. In class once BR17 beat a boy", and
9 the Panel will be aware from the designation list who
10 that is, "with a bamboo cane and he was shaking and
11 crying. The Brother only stopped when he realised that
12 we were all watching him and not looking at books. His
13 bamboo cane was carbonised so that it was hard and
14 wouldn't split at the tip."

15 Then he says this, if we scroll up, please:

16 "BR17 also sexually abused me on a trip to the
17 Newtownards Hospital to pick up another boy who had been
18 in for something like tonsillitis or appendicitis. When
19 coming back, it was dark. The three of us were in the
20 front. I was in the middle. The boy fell off to sleep
21 and BR17 started to interfere with me. I personally
22 wanted to go to the loo, but said nothing. He was
23 disappointed at my lack of interest or reaction to all
24 his fiddling.

25 Another time I was called up to the blackboard in

1 class and BR17 suddenly grabbed my ears from behind and
2 banged my head against the board. I had been trying to
3 write something on the board and he got mad at me and
4 shouted, "Are you blind? Can't you see it?"

5 Now obviously from what I said at the outset HIA159
6 wasn't blind,

Scroll down, please.

8 "My years in Rubane House were fairly uneventful
9 with occasional occurrences from time to time, but
10 I believed it was the norm for everybody.

11 Any boys that attempted to run away were brought
12 back and paraded in front of everybody to humiliate them
13 and to show us what happens to any boy that runs away.
14 The boy was flogged and received no pocket money for
15 a month and other privileges were taken away."

16 Then he makes a point about:

17 "As previously stated, I never received any mail
18 while at Rubane House despite someone seeing mail
19 addressed to me."

20 He then explains his life after Rubane in respect of
21 St. Augustine's Club:

22 "After I left Rubane House, it was St. Augustine's
23 Club, Great Victoria Street, Belfast that helped boys to
24 find jobs and lodgings and subsidise us with rent and
25 pocket money.

1 When I was a year after leaving Rubane, I was
2 told by a friend from the home that someone had been to
3 the club looking for me. It was a man from England who
4 had been trying to get in contact with me and had left
5 his address for me to contact him. I went to the club
6 to enquire, but nobody would tell me.

7 Years later I learnt that my mother had married and
8 moved to England in 1950 and I can only assume that it
9 was my stepfather."

10 You can see he indicates finding out in the '90s via
11 the Salvation Army:

12 "... where my mother had lived. However, she died
13 in 1982 and I have since not been able to trace any
14 relatives."

15 He indicates he made contact with the Catholic Care
16 Society, which is an organisation working out of Derry,
17 to try to find information, but he didn't find them to
18 be helpful. The proper title is the Catholic Family
19 Care Society in Londonderry.

20 The De La Salle Order then, as has been the fashion,
21 have provided a replying statement to the Inquiry in
22 respect of the evidence from HIA159 through his wife and
23 daughter. We can look at that, please, at 2160, and you
24 can see that, if we just scroll down, please, the Order
25 acknowledges again the sexual abuse and indeed physical

1 abuse perpetrated by BR17 on boys, and they accept the
2 account given by HIA159 about the sexual interference in
3 the car, which is corroborated by other accounts, and,
4 in fact, Members of the Panel, you will be aware from
5 the 1958 investigation that one of the complaints that
6 a boy would not withdraw was what he was saying happened
7 in a car, and the alteration that was required by the
8 Provincial was for BR17 to stop driving so much.

9 There is for the record a statement from the Health
10 & Social Care Board, which is at 8048. There is no need
11 to bring that up. 8048 and 9. That records that it
12 appears that HIA159 was an entirely private placement in
13 Nazareth Lodge and then subsequently Rubane House.

14 In addition, Members of the Panel, the wife of
15 HIA159, , has given access to the Inquiry to
16 various writings that her husband engaged in during his
17 life. He would have been a keen writer recording in
18 handwriting his experiences both in Nazareth Lodge and
19 in Rubane. I want to bring up, please, 8053, because
20 the Inquiry has access to a three-page document that
21 records HIA159's views on life generally in Rubane. He
22 doesn't in this document detail the abuse that we've
23 looked at in the witness statement, but just general
24 reflections on life in Rubane. I have already made
25 aware of how helpful these views are likely to

1 be or recordings of historical event for the Panel in
2 making the determinations that the Panel will have to
3 make.

4 I want to in summary form highlight a number of
5 points that arise out of this three-page document that
6 touch on a number of issues that are current in the
7 evidence that the Inquiry has been hearing and is likely
8 to be of assistance to the Panel.

9 You can see, first of all, that he says at the
10 outset:

11 "What can one say about Rubane House? It was in the
12 main a great three years for most boys. We all left
13 Nazareth Lodge when we were 12."

14 So you can see that for HIA159, despite what
15 occurred for him that he has described to the Inquiry,
16 there were positive experiences that he then records.

17 If we can scroll down, please, to the end of the
18 first page, there's a section that I'd like to highlight
19 -- I am not sure if the highlighter could be used for me
20 -- the section that begins:

21 "Many of the boys ..."

22 So from about eight lines up. If you could just
23 highlight the rest of that passage bar the last line,
24 you can see it says this:

25 "Many of the boys slept in all of the bedrooms

1 except one small which was reserved for boys with
2 a bedwetting problem. You could earn extra money by
3 sleeping in the same room as them, but you had to get
4 them up three times during the night so they did not wet
5 the bed. So you always had to remember to reset the
6 alarm clock for your next call."

7 You will recall, Members of the Panel, the
8 references in the evidence for the last two days about
9 the use of the alarm clock in respect of wetting the
10 bed.

11 Move over to the second page, please, and the second
12 line down you can see HIA159 expressing his view about
13 the fact that by this stage of Rubane's development you
14 had split accommodation. So you had the dormitories in
15 the main house and then you had the steward's house
16 being used as additional dormitories, and he says this
17 of that experience:

18 "A few lucky boys got to stay in a house within the
19 farmyard."

20 That's what we have become known as the steward's
21 house. He describes it as known as:

22 "... the old school, if it ever was at one time or
23 not. It was more likely that it was the one time
24 farmer's home when Rubane House was a large working
25 estate. It was great. Only two Brothers stayed there

1 at night so we had more fun and it was less
2 restrictive."

3 He records how one Brother called BR15 or BR15 --
4 that will be BR15 -- and BR13, . He says it was
5 a nice house.

6 Then he records you have heard over the last couple
7 of days the discussion about the swimming pool being
8 introduced in 1959. If we scroll down a little, please,
9 there's a section where we can see -- keep going down,
10 please -- we can see the words:

11 "... that a swimming pool was going to be built."

12 Perhaps if it is possible if you could just try and
13 highlight that entire block for me from "that a swimming
14 pool" and down for about ten lines. Just keep going.
15 Thank you. Just stop there.

16 "... that a swimming pool was going to be built in
17 the corner of the garden, and if we helped out, it would
18 be ready for the summer, and it was, and while we were
19 in class one day the pool was all ready being filled
20 with water. The just ..."

21 It seems that's how HIA159 described BR17.

22 "The just looked at his watch and said, 'Right.
23 It's 11 o'clock. You can head for the pool'. You never
24 seen a bigger scattering match in all your life, and the
25 water was really cold, great for a real sunny day. We

1 all did get swimming pants a couple of days before. So
2 we knew it was nearly ready. Thank God he was in a good
3 mood",

4 as in BR17:

5 "It was not an enormous pool, but 36 feet long,
6 three lanes wide."

7 He then goes on to describe a small wooded copse
8 with a stone arbour shaped like a miniature castle for
9 sitting in.

10 If we just scroll on down, please, and if you can
11 let that highlighting go and create a new one for me and
12 if you just can take from:

13 "... was also small wooded copse with a stone arbour
14 ..."

15 and just scroll down to the bottom. Thank you.

16 You can see he says:

17 "It was the type of place where a lady and gentlemen
18 were out for a walk and would stop and rest and perhaps
19 have some tea. We were not allowed into the wood unless
20 the said so."

21 Then you can see in brackets this perhaps cryptic
22 comment:

23 "(He had his own reasons) but we always managed to
24 get in and play. So long as no-one climbed the trees
25 trying to imitate Tarzan. One boy was very badly

1 injured several years earlier, thus the ban. We could
2 also have our own gardens where we grew various
3 vegetables and sent to the kitchen."

4 Then he describes where the supplies came from. If
5 we go over on to the next page, please, he then talks
6 about the process, the third line down, of working on
7 the farms:

8 "Every farmer that had a potato crop came to
9 Kircubbin and the brothers used to let two farmers from
10 the same area take twenty boys each to pick the crops.
11 It was great fun but hard work."

12 Then you will see he recounts two tractors racing on
13 the road. Then he says this:

14 "The Brothers were well paid. We got ..."

15 and that appears to be ...

16 CHAIRMAN: 5 shillings.

17 MR AIKEN: "... 5 shillings out of the money."

18 CHAIRMAN: 25 pence to you, Mr Aiken.

19

20 MR AIKEN: I am obliged, Chairman.

21 "Some went to buy weekly films and other goodies and
22 sweets and sports equipment, new shoes, etc."

23 So it appears HIA159 is recording that money did
24 come in, and in addition to whatever the boys received
25 out of that, some of that money then was spent on

1 providing more materials.

2 Then if we can look down at the bottom of the page,
3 please, if we scroll down, we can see a sentence on the
4 left-hand side. You can see the word "time", and if you
5 just could highlight from the sentence above that for
6 me, highlight in yellow the three lines.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

8 MR AIKEN: He says:

9 "Another time we all had to get our hair shaved
10 because of nits. We all looked like skinheads. Thank
11 God it was summer time."

12 Then he describes various activities that they got
13 into on the farm. Then we can see just a little further
14 down, about four lines down from the highlighted
15 section, he describes going on long walks, sometimes in
16 a large group, to the lough, or out with , BR13, who
17 always carried sweets with him, Dolly Mixtures or Jelly
18 Babies or sometimes Brandy Balls, and makes the point
19 which you can still get today.

20 So those are just some of the reflections from
21 HIA159 that relate to some of the matters of evidence
22 that the Panel have heard over the last couple of days
23 and are likely to continue to hear about. I have
24 already made aware that this document is
25 likely to be of very great assistance to the Panel in

1 doing its work.

2 At this stage, Chairman, Members of the Panel,
3 I simply acknowledge that from meeting it has
4 been an extremely difficult experience emotionally for
5 her to make this journey, not just physically to come
6 here, but the engagement with the Inquiry so that her
7 husband's story can be told is something that means
8 a great deal to her and her daughter, and I don't
9 propose at this stage to say anything further about
10 HIA159.

11 CHAIRMAN: I take it you have explored with the
12 question of continuing anonymity for her husband?

13 MR AIKEN: Yes. The -- perhaps it is something I will just
14 verify again with her, Chairman, but all of the
15 documents have been anonymised to date.

16 CHAIRMAN: I can just perhaps ask her. , you I am
17 sure understand that the documents will not contain any
18 reference to your husband. His name will be blacked out
19 unless you want it otherwise.

20 : I would like his name kept in.

21 CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. I couldn't quite catch that. Just
22 nod -- if you want your husband's name taken out, just
23 nod --

24 : No.

25 CHAIRMAN: -- or if you'd like it left so that everybody

1 knows, then we can do that.

2 I would like it left.

3 CHAIRMAN: You would prefer that everybody knew that it was
4 him?

5 : Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN: Well, you can talk it over with your daughter. I
7 mean, if you want to change your mind, just let us know
8 before you go.

9 : Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Well, thank you, both you,
11 and your daughter, for making the journey to
12 come. We can see that it has been a very emotional
13 experience for you, as Mr Aiken has confirmed to us. We
14 are, as I have said before and I am happy to say again,
15 very grateful to those who do come to speak to us,
16 because it enables us to get a clearer picture of the
17 individual and their experiences, and although your
18 husband sadly has not been able to do this, this
19 document particularly has told us a great deal about him
20 and his time there, which is very helpful to us. So
21 thank you for giving us permission to use those, what
22 I imagine are more private thoughts and documents he put
23 together. Thank you.

24 I take it that's all for today, Mr Aiken?

25 MR AIKEN: That concludes today's evidence, Chairman and

1 Members of the Panel.

2 CHAIRMAN: We will rise now and resume at the usual time of
3 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

4 (3.07 pm)

5 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

6 --ooOoo--

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