

-----  
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, 10th March 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 100)

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

1 Tuesday, 10th March 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.45 am)

5 WITNESS HIA250 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

7 MR MONTAGUE: Morning, Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN: May I remind everyone to please ensure their  
9 mobile phones have either been turned off or placed on  
10 "Silent"/"Vibrate" and also to remind everyone that no  
11 photography or indeed recording of any sort is permitted  
12 either in the chamber or anywhere on the Inquiry  
13 premises.

14 Yes, Ms Smith.

15 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
16 gentlemen. Our first witness today is HIA250. She is  
17 HIA250. HIA250 wishes to affirm and she also wishes to  
18 maintain her anonymity.

19 WITNESS HIA250 (affirmed)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, HIA250.

21 **A. Thank you now.**

22 Q. Please sit down.

23 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

24 MS SMITH: Now, HIA250, before I come to talk about your  
25 evidence I'm just going to let the Panel Members know

1 where some documents relevant to you are in our bundle.

2 **A. That's okay.**

3 Q. HIA250's statement can be found at SNB-818 to 827.

4 The congregation's response is at SNB-205 -- sorry  
5 -- 2095 to 2096.

6 The congregation's -- sorry -- the Health & Social  
7 Care Board response is at SNB-5743 to 5744. It  
8 indicates that they have no records relating to HIA250's  
9 time in care and that they understand she was a private  
10 placement in Nazareth House.

11 Now, HIA250, if we can just have a look at your  
12 statement, which is at SNB-818, and you will see here  
13 that instead of your name --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- it is given your designation. If we just go to the  
16 last page of that, and that's at 827, please, can I ask  
17 you to confirm, HIA250, that you signed the statement on  
18 13th November of last year and that you wish the Inquiry  
19 to take this into account as your evidence, together  
20 with anything else that you say this morning?

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. To go back to the start of the statement at 818, you set  
23 out your personal details as far as you're aware of them  
24 in paragraph 1, and although you thought that you were  
25 in Nazareth House in Belfast from about the age of 2, it

1 suggests here that, in fact -- sorry -- you thought you  
2 went there when you were 5. This suggests you actually  
3 went when you were aged 2 in 1955 until September 1972.  
4 So you were in care your entire childhood. Isn't that  
5 correct?

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

7 Q. What these Sisters of Nazareth records disclose is that  
8 you came to Nazareth House in Belfast from their house  
9 in Portadown.

10 Paragraph 4, you describe the layout of the home  
11 there. You say you were in the nursery, first of all.  
12 You don't remember anything bad about being in the  
13 nursery, but after the nursery you went into what was  
14 known as the children's part. You talk about in the  
15 garden there being a small wall with railings between  
16 the nursery and the children's part to stop the younger  
17 children from getting out or getting lost. You say  
18 there were 4 or 5-year-olds on one side and the seniors  
19 on the other side. You felt there would have been more  
20 freedom in the children's part. We have heard that, in  
21 fact, the nursery children weren't allowed to mingle  
22 with the older girls. Is that correct?

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

24 Q. You talk about the front part of the convent being  
25 reserved for the nuns. You say there was a beautiful

1 garden with flowers at the front of it and children were  
2 only allowed in there on certain occasions, although you  
3 weren't totally isolated from it, but in the early days  
4 around the 1960s -- that's the early days of your memory  
5 --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- you would have only been allowed into the nuns'  
8 garden during the month of May to say prayers, but that  
9 changed later and the gardens were more open to both the  
10 old people as well as the children.

11 "Beside the nuns' garden was the nursery garden and  
12 then the children's garden, which had swings and  
13 climbers, and that they were used constantly. The  
14 garden was used for skipping, netball and many other  
15 activities."

16 Now I am going to show you a photograph that we have  
17 obtained from someone else, HIA250.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. If we could look at SNB-32987, is this -- this is  
20 a photograph that we have received of the nuns' garden  
21 before it was demolished. I'm not entirely clear when  
22 this was taken, but is this what you remember the nuns'  
23 garden looking like?

24 **A. That wouldn't -- sorry -- yes. That wouldn't have been**  
25 **in the early days. That would have been in the later**

1 days when it was opened up. When I say it was opened  
2 up, in the early days it would have been bushes along  
3 the whole front of it. It was like a maze type thing.  
4 We walked round the place, but it's completely opened up  
5 there.

6 Q. Just from this photograph can you perhaps help us with,  
7 you know, what part of the convent is what, just looking  
8 at it, if you can remember?

9 A. Yes, I can. That's the front part, and actually can I  
10 just say something here --

11 Q. Yes, of course.

12 A. -- a moment, because I used to work at the parlour at  
13 the front of the house for a while -- right -- and to  
14 the left of that would have been -- would have been the  
15 front door.

16 Q. You can see there's a little cursor moving there on the  
17 screen.

18 A. Oh, yes, yes.

19 Q. Perhaps if you can direct that.

20 A. Over to the left here that's where the front door was.  
21 Down here to the right is where the photograph was that  
22 I showed you where I'm sitting on the bench.

23 Q. Yes. There's a little sort of what looks like  
24 a greenhouse there. Is that what we were seeing in the  
25 photograph, which we'll look at shortly?

1 **A. No. Actually I don't recall that greenhouse. That must**  
2 **have been after I left again --**

3 Q. Okay.

4 **A. -- because there -- what I have in one of my photographs**  
5 **is a statue of Our Lady there. I have a couple of**  
6 **pictures taken, actually my wedding photograph. So that**  
7 **greenhouse must have been added after I left.**

8 Q. You left?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. We know you left in 1972. So this photograph has been  
11 taken some time after that.

12 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

13 Q. Just -- sorry.

14 CHAIRMAN: Just while we are looking at the picture, HIA250,  
15 if we look at the left, is that where the Ravenhill Road  
16 is out there to the left?

17 **A. No, no. That should be the Ormeau Road.**

18 CHAIRMAN: The Ormeau Road?

19 **A. Yes. The Ravenhill Road should be down that way.**

20 MS SMITH: Yes.

21 **A. Right.**

22 Q. So as we're looking at this photograph, we're  
23 effectively looking at it from what is the corner where  
24 the two roads join. Is that what we're looking back --

25 **A. At the roundabout?**

1 Q. Yes. Looking back towards the convent?

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. This part of the convent that we see, what would have  
4 been contained in that part of the convent?

5 **A. Parlours, what was known as the parlour, but children  
6 didn't have much access to that.**

7 Q. This would have been the nuns' parlours --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- or for visitors, that kind of thing?

10 **A. Yes, it was, yes.**

11 Q. Then as you go moving down a bit, behind that --

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. -- we can see there's two chimneys there and a roof.  
14 Can you say what would have been there?

15 **A. Well, further on down behind that would have been the  
16 old old people's home --**

17 Q. Right.

18 **A. -- but it was -- there was a new extension put on to  
19 that at some stage as well for a moderation.**

20 Q. We may actually see that if we just look to the  
21 left-hand side. There seems to be a more modern  
22 building just above the rose bushes there between the  
23 main building and --

24 **A. But you wouldn't have seen it -- well, when I was there,  
25 you wouldn't have seen that from that angle, because it**



1           **was further on down.**

2    Q.   Right.  There seemed to be -- in fact, if we look just  
3           to the right-hand side of the photograph, just where --  
4           you see where the cursor is, where the little mark is?

5    A.   **Yes.**

6    Q.   There's like a red-bricked building.

7    A.   **Yes.**

8    Q.   Can you say what that was?

9    A.   **From what I can remember now, if I'm looking at that  
10           right, the top part of that would have been Our Lady's  
11           dormitory.**

12   Q.   And then -- you see if we move forward from that, there  
13           seems to be like a grey brick building there.  Just  
14           below there seemed to be like two separate buildings.  
15           There seems to be -- yes, there.  That seems to be  
16           a separate building.  Is that part of the old people's?

17   A.   **That's the -- remember you were asking me about  
18           photographs, and I said to you it was like a corridor  
19           into the men's place.  Well, that would be like that.  
20           It was on a lower level.  It was a flat level.  So that  
21           would have taken you into the old men's side.**

22   Q.   Would that old men's side be this grey brick building to  
23           the right-hand side then --

24   A.   **Well, that would have been the corridor.**

25   Q.   -- just behind that greenhouse -- behind the greenhouse

1           there?

2   **A. Yes, yes. That's my understanding of it.**

3   Q. I think you talked about St. Basil's being like a new  
4       part. Is this the St. Basil's we are talking about here  
5       then?

6   **A. No, because you can't see St. Basil's. St. Basil's was  
7       at the other side.**

8   Q. Okay.

9   **A. I'm not great -- it's --**

10   Q. Beyond the children's department?

11   **A. Beyond the children's department, yes. Well, where  
12       I used to sit and have my dinner -- right -- there was  
13       a big window and St. Basil's -- we could have looked out  
14       and St. Basil's was to the left of us.**

15   Q. So do you know -- do you know what this new building,  
16       this grey brick building is?

17   **A. I don't, no.**

18   Q. Again that might have been added after you left?

19   **A. Possibly.**

20   Q. Although this corridor here you thought led to the old  
21       gentlemen's part?

22   **A. Yes, that's the vision I have of -- if I look at my own  
23       photographs, I can understand it better. That  
24       particular photograph just isn't doing it for me.**

25   Q. Well, we will look at your photographs now --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- just while we are looking at photographs then,  
3 HIA250. If we can look then at SNB-18426, first of all.  
4 Then we can also -- we can come back to that other one  
5 if you prefer. Just this -- I am just going to describe  
6 what -- if you would describe what's in each of these  
7 photographs. We can use names, as I have explained to  
8 you, but those names are not to be used outside this  
9 room, HIA250.

10 **A. Right. Okay.**

11 Q. So if we just look at the first photograph, this is an  
12 on the way to school type of photograph.

13 **A. On the way to school and we went to school out the back**  
14 **door, which was the Ravenhill part. Now if you look**  
15 **closely, just up against the wall you will see glass**  
16 **just up there. That's St. Basil's. Right?**

17 CHAIRMAN: Can you blow that up a little bit?

18 **A. But -- see, that's St. Basil's there.**

19 Q. So this is the Ravenhill Road?

20 **A. Yes, and that's St. Basil's there.**

21 Q. Where you see the windows?

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. And that presumably behind -- there's a child there  
24 second from the right. I'm not sure if she's wearing  
25 a cap or something.

1 **A. Yes. You had to wear berets to school, but not**  
2 **everybody wore them. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. That's the wall that runs right the way up to the  
4 roundabout?

5 **A. That's the wall that runs right the whole way round, the**  
6 **whole horseshoe round. That's the red wall that runs**  
7 **right round from the Ravenhill Road right round to the**  
8 **Ormeau Road.**

9 MS SMITH: That wall is still there today.

10 **A. Yes, it is, yes.**

11 CHAIRMAN: Are you in that photograph, HIA250?

12 **A. Not that one going to school now, but I do know the**  
13 **girls that were there.**

14 Q. Well, can you give us an idea what period that  
15 photograph refers to?

16 **A. Oh!**

17 Q. You will you see a Morris Minor in the background.

18 **A. Yes. what age? 55. So she would have been --**  
19 **she had only started school. It was her first year.**

20 Q. Early '60s?

21 **A. Early '60s, yes.**

22 MS SMITH: And you were describing that the smallest girl  
23 there is holding a tin.

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. You say that that was ingredients for domestic science

1 at St. Monica's.

2 **A. Exactly, yes, yes.**

3 Q. The girl to the left-hand side is -- her name is

4 HIA 61 Is that correct?

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. And the next girl?

7 **A.**

8 Q. And then?

9 **A. and**

10 Q. These were girls who would have been in your group. Is

11 that --

12 **A. Three. Three of them are in my group, yes.**

13 Q. Not HIA 61

14 **A. Not HIA 61**

15 Q. Just to be clear, beyond the wall we can see the convent

16 there, the old red brick --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- after (inaudible).

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

20 Q. That's the building that we see in that photograph we

21 were just looking at.

22 **A. Yes, but that's -- if you -- you see, what you've got to**

23 **understand is that there's two entrances on the**

24 **Ravenhill Road. There was the entrance for the**

25 **children, and then do you see up where the red brick is?**

1       **If you turned right in there, you could have drove in**  
2       **with your car. There was like a yard there, and to the**  
3       **left of the yard there was the old people's home, the**  
4       **old men. Right? Then in front was the old old women's**  
5       **before St. Basil's came up, if that makes sense.**

6       **I don't know whether it does or not.**

7       Q. Just while we are looking at these photographs perhaps  
8       if we just scroll out again.

9       CHAIRMAN: Well, just before we leave it --

10      MS SMITH: Sorry.

11      CHAIRMAN: -- we can see two gable walls with what look like  
12      chimneys are perhaps there --

13      **A. Yes.**

14      Q. -- in the background. If we look back to or think of  
15      the photograph we looked at a moment ago, the front area  
16      that you've described where the gardens are, that would  
17      be in over the wall down there somewhere -- isn't that  
18      right -- up towards the roundabout?

19      **A. Yes, exactly, but you're taking the photograph from the**  
20      **roundabout that way.**

21      Q. I understand that.

22      **A. So that's not the front. That's the side.**

23      Q. No, no.

24      MS SMITH: That's the side.

25      **A. Yes, yes.**

1 CHAIRMAN: But that looks like what was perhaps an original  
2 building.

3 **A. It is, yes.**

4 Q. In other words, it hadn't been modified in any way.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. Whereas the glass that you are describing looks like --

7 **A. That was the new --**

8 Q. -- perhaps a slightly more modern building.

9 **A. Yes, that was the new St. Basil's. I don't know whether**  
10 **I have that in photographs, other photographs.**

11 Q. Well, thank you.

12 MS SMITH: We can look at photographs you brought us,  
13 HIA250. Just if we might then scroll out, this other  
14 photograph to the side is a group of children.  
15 That's -- you described this to me as part of your  
16 group, St. Anne's group.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. You say this was taken in the Ormeau Park.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You think it was about the 1970s --

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. -- as far as you can be sure.

23 **A. Yes, as far -- yes.**

24 Q. You are actually shown in that photograph --

25 **A. I am, yes.**

1 Q. -- as one of the four girls in the back row, second in  
2 from the right --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- in a white blouse.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. The photograph below that is of one of the reunions for  
7 the girls in Nazareth House.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. Then the two photographs at the bottom --

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 Q. -- this is the building that I was wondering if that was  
12 the greenhouse, but you're saying that it's not.

13 **A. No, because that is to the left of where HIA61 is. In  
14 that photograph it was to the right. Just where I'm  
15 standing, just further down there there's a glass door.  
16 You go in through that glass door and you turn right and  
17 that takes you to the old men's home.**

18 CHAIRMAN: Is that you, HIA250, with a child in your arms?

19 **A. That's me, yes, yes. That's one of our younger ones.**

20 **NHB 103 you called her. NHB 103 should I say.**

21 MS SMITH: Then the next photograph is you with the same  
22 child on your lap --

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. -- and the girl HIA 61 who we saw in that photograph  
25 going to school.



1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. You have brought some other photographs. We have a few  
3 copies of these. So if we could move to 18429, the top  
4 photograph is again -- this is of your group. I know  
5 you will talk about how you were initially -- always in  
6 St. Anne's group, but initially that was looked after by  
7 SR116.

8 **A. SR116 was the first nun as a young child and then SR45  
9 and then SR199 --**

10 Q. And this is Sister --

11 **A. -- and that was SR199.**

12 Q. That's SR199?

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. Again you are not in that photograph, are you?

15 **A. Oh, I am.**

16 Q. Sorry, HIA250. I beg your pardon.

17 **A. Oh, yes.**

18 Q. You have again got another child sitting on your lap by  
19 the looks of it.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You are just second in from the right there. You can  
22 just see your head.

23 **A. Yes, that's right, yes.**

24 Q. Then these are other children in your group. When this  
25 photograph was taken, was this when things had

1 changed -- dormitories had changed to family groups  
2 homes, as we describe them?

3 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

4 Q. Then the photograph below was a day out.

5 **A. Uh-huh, yes.**

6 Q. Again from -- again as far as we can tell this is in  
7 1960s, '70s time?

8 **A. Yes, it is, yes, yes.**

9 Q. Then --

10 CHAIRMAN: Have you any idea where that is, HIA250? I mean,  
11 we can see it's a play park.

12 **A. No, I couldn't remember.**

13 Q. It's not very clear what the background is. Is it at  
14 the seaside or something like that?

15 **A. It probably was, yes. We would have been. Probably**  
16 **Ballyhornan or somewhere like that. I can't really**  
17 **remember.**

18 MS SMITH: I think on the hard copy it seems to be land  
19 rather than sea, although right in the far distance  
20 there may be some sea.

21 CHAIRMAN: Right.

22 MS SMITH: Then the -- if we can scroll down to the next  
23 page, please, just there's a final photograph that you  
24 brought to us, HIA250. This is your first holy  
25 communion.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. You and a group of other girls and this photograph would  
3 have been taken in the nuns' garden. Is that right?

4 **A. Yes, yes.**

5 Q. There seem to be seven of you on this occasion.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. Eight. Sorry. I beg your pardon. I can't add.

8 CHAIRMAN: Nine.

9 **A. Nine actually.**

10 MS SMITH: I can't add or count. I left one of you out.

11 Anyway which is you?

12 **A. I am the second one in on the front row from the right.**

13 Q. With the head bowed down?

14 **A. No, no. Next one. That's me there.**

15 Q. Those are the photographs that you brought. Can we just  
16 maybe go back before we finally leave them to the  
17 original photograph of the nuns' garden so we can maybe  
18 put that into perspective if we can?

19 **A. Right. Okay.**

20 Q. The number for that was 32987.

21 **A. Excuse me. See before we go back can you visualise that**  
22 **statue --**

23 Q. Yes.

24 **A. -- and then I'll be able to point out where that should**  
25 **be in the front garden.**

1 Q. Okay. So that little alcove with the statue of Our Lady  
2 was in the nuns' garden to the right-hand side?

3 **A. Yes, to the right-hand side.**

4 Q. So if we go back to the nuns' garden photograph then,  
5 now as you look at it, where that would that statue be?

6 **A. Believe it or not, it is round where the glass -- that  
7 glass --**

8 Q. Greenhouse?

9 **A. -- greenhouse is, yes.**

10 Q. So that's where that statue would have been?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. From this photograph we can't actually see St. Basil's,  
13 can we?

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. It's not that grey brick building then? I'm sure there  
16 may be some of the nuns who were there after you might  
17 be able to describe this, HIA250.

18 **A. Yes. That photograph is just not as clear as what in my  
19 mind at my time. I have my own photographs where I can  
20 see different things, but that's -- anyway, having said  
21 that, probably as a child I wouldn't be looking at that.  
22 I lived in it. Do you know what I mean? And looking at  
23 it, no, it doesn't.**

24 Q. Okay. Well, thank you. It's helpful to get some sort  
25 of visual picture --

1 **A. Yes, yes.**

2 Q. -- of what it was like, given that it is no longer in  
3 existence. Then if we may move back to your statement  
4 then --

5 **A. Right.**

6 Q. -- at page 819, you were talking here about only being  
7 allowed into the nuns' garden on special occasions  
8 effectively, for example, during the month of May, which  
9 would have been the month when special devotion was  
10 given to Our Lady.

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

12 Q. We have heard from some other people that there were  
13 processions --

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

15 Q. -- at that time.

16 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

17 Q. Then you say that there were three groups in the home,  
18 St. Anne's, Sacred Heart and Our Lady's. We have heard  
19 you were in St. Anne's. You say -- you have described  
20 in your statement, HIA250, about the changes that you  
21 saw over the period of time you were in the home.

22 **A. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. You say:

24 "In the early days we were all dressed in the same  
25 clothes, a tweed skirt and a jumper."

1           You say:

2           "The nuns must have bought one roll of material for  
3           each group and made skirts with a matching jumper for  
4           each child."

5           You had -- sorry.

6   **A. Yes, but could I just say that was our Sunday garments.**  
7           **The tweed skirt was specially for a Sunday. Right? The**  
8           **ordinary days, now they weren't -- for some apparent**  
9           **reason we were all dressed in that particular colour.**  
10          **So ...**

11   Q. You just say -- you say there Our Lady's wore blue  
12          uniforms, Sacred Heart wore red and you wore green.

13   **A. We wore the green. That's right, yes.**

14   Q. Were those little -- we have heard of little dresses  
15          with pinafores over them. Is that what you're  
16          describing is the uniform or --

17   **A. No, no, no. These were actually tweed. It was almost**  
18          **like a pencil with a jumper.**

19   Q. Sorry. You are talking about the Sunday uniforms.

20   **A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.**

21   Q. What about during the week? What would you have worn  
22          during the week?

23   **A. No, during the week we had just ordinary clothes, as you**  
24          **can see from the other photographs that I --**

25   Q. Yes.

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

2 Q. But that was true of the early days, the '60s, as well  
3 as later on?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You say the form of dress changed over the years.

6 **A. It did. It became -- well, actually, to be honest with**  
7 **you, I think at one stage we were dressed in gingham,**  
8 **wee check dresses which they wear to primary school now.**  
9 **We wore them. I would have wore one of them as a child,**  
10 **but then in the '70s they didn't have to wear them. We**  
11 **weren't -- the younger ones weren't all dressed the**  
12 **same, if that makes sense, yes.**

13 Q. So then, as I say -- there were thirty -- initially  
14 thirty children in your group, in St. Anne's group.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. You don't remember ever being called by a number. The  
17 congregation have said, HIA250, that numbers were used  
18 for laundry, for handing girls back their little gingham  
19 dress or whatever. Do you remember that, sort of  
20 a number being used in that way?

21 **A. I really don't, no.**

22 Q. You do remember, though, having your own handmade cloth  
23 toiletry bag with your name written on it in a pen  
24 marker, which you still have.

25 **A. Which I have with me, yes, indeed.**

1 Q. You have it with you today?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Okay. Well, we can maybe have a look at that later, if  
4 you don't mind.

5 **A. Uh-huh.**

6 Q. You say that you kept your toothbrush and your Gibbs  
7 toothpaste in it and you say they were renewed when  
8 necessary. Was that just that you went and said,  
9 "Sister, I need more toothpaste"? How was it renewed?

10 **A. Well, you had to go if you had none left in your wee tin  
11 to see, because there would have been some stored in the  
12 cupboard, a wee store.**

13 Q. But you couldn't have just helped yourself to it? You  
14 had to ask.

15 **A. Oh, no. Oh, absolutely not, no, no.**

16 Q. You talk about in the 1970s about a housemother who you  
17 name here and I will just use her name as NL143.

18 **A. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. You said your whole group actually went to her wedding.  
20 Sadly she's passed away.

21 **A. Uh-huh.**

22 Q. I wanted to ask you about lay staff in the home.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. Certainly in the 1970s this lady was there. What about  
25 before the '70s? Were there lay staff working in



1 Nazareth House that you remember?

2 **A. Yes, there was a few before that. I can't -- I can't**  
3 **remember all their names.**

4 Q. What would they have been doing in the home? What kind  
5 of jobs might they have had in the home?

6 **A. Well, they would have been minding the groups. There**  
7 **was one for each group, allocated to each group. One of**  
8 **ours was called** and there was another one from  
9 **Portaferry, but I can't remember her name. I just**  
10 **really can't remember her name.**

11 Q. So there would have been a nun and a lay staff person --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- looking after each group?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Was that always the case or --

16 **A. No. I can only remember that from -- I suppose it**  
17 **depends on your age, but I can only remember it from I**  
18 **was about 7.**

19 Q. You go on to describe life in the convent --

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. -- as basic. You say:

22 "... which you would expect. You were fed and given  
23 a roof over your heads. Your basic needs were met, but  
24 there was no emotional side to it."

25 You say:

1 "There couldn't be. Who were you to get that off?"

2 In your view that was just a product of society in  
3 the '50s. Who did care? Your family didn't and to you  
4 it was worse on the outside than it was on the inside.  
5 Every child, as you say, had a different background,  
6 circumstances, genetics.

7 "Some people who came into the convent still had  
8 families and they came in with siblings and their  
9 experiences were different from mine",

10 as you were an orphan totally on your own.

11 Excuse me. The congregation, as I've said to you,  
12 have responded to what you have said, and while they  
13 accept a lot of what you say in your statement is about  
14 how they remember chores and so forth that I will go on  
15 to, they do say they are sad to hear that you left alone  
16 in the home, as they tried to provide love and affection  
17 for the children they cared for.

18 **A. Yes, but don't get me wrong. That's how -- in today's**  
19 **society when you are reflecting back, if you know what**  
20 **I mean.**

21 Q. Yes.

22 **A. That's not -- yes.**

23 Q. That's -- I mean, are you saying -- and I don't want to  
24 put words in your mouth, HIA250, so please just  
25 interrupt me if I've got this wrong -- but you're saying

1 as you look back on your childhood now, that's how you  
2 feel, but at the time you weren't really aware of those  
3 feelings.

4 **A. You weren't, no, because when you're a child, you are in**  
5 **a completely different -- it's only when you reflect**  
6 **back. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You do say that you were very young -- you say when you  
8 were very young, it was tough. You slept in huge  
9 dormitories on wrought iron beds on thin mattresses,  
10 simply a product of the time.

11 I forgot to ask you this, but one thing we heard was  
12 in the summer the girls painted the bed frames. Do you  
13 remember that happening?

14 **A. Absolutely not. Painted the bed frames? Oh, no. Never**  
15 **heard of it.**

16 Q. You said as a young child moving from the small nursery  
17 to a large dormitory with all those children would have  
18 been traumatic. As time passed the dormitories were  
19 split into three different groups. You had your own  
20 bed, a lovely comfortable bed with your own wardrobe,  
21 cupboard, chest of drawers. You think that happened in  
22 around 1970.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. At that stage then things changed. There was a living  
25 room for each dormitory and you had a record player, but

1           you say that the children who lived in the house before  
2           you did in the 1950s would have had it much harder, but  
3           as you moved along, times changed and the systems  
4           changed.

5     **A. Yes.**

6     Q. You go on to say that as one of the older girls, you  
7           were given a lot of responsibility.

8     **A. Uh-huh.**

9     Q. After you got up, you had to get the breakfast. Now I'm  
10           just wondering when we're talking about here, HIA250.  
11           Is this when you were in the sort of family group homes,  
12           if I can put it that way?

13     **A. It was. Yes, it was. It was, because do you see the**  
14           **kitchen still was further down. We didn't cook our own**  
15           **food. It was still cooked in a main kitchen.**

16     Q. Right.

17     **A. Right? So we didn't cook in our own apartments or**  
18           **department.**

19     Q. You would roll the trolley up to the kitchen to get the  
20           bacon and sausages or whatever was on that day?

21     **A. Yes, I would wheel the trolley. Yes, yes. Whatever was**  
22           **on them, yes, yes.**

23     Q. In the early '60s -- in the earlier days -- sorry --  
24           I keep taking words out -- in the earlier days around  
25           1960 you all ate in one huge dining room and then over a

1 space of time the dining rooms were divided up so each  
2 group had their own, and that was a great  
3 transformation.

4 **A. Yes, it was absolutely. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You think you were about 10 or 11 when that happened.

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. You say:

8 "The food was okay. We didn't have a choice in what  
9 we ate. After all, it wasn't a hotel. We ate what was  
10 put on the table, and if we didn't eat it, we didn't get  
11 anything else. Once the dining rooms were divided,  
12 things were better and the food seemed to change."

13 You remember getting a lot of food from Marks &  
14 Spencer's, marzipan cakes, huge bags of crisps and meat.

15 Now I take it you were getting meat before.

16 **A. Oh, we were, yes.**

17 Q. This was just Marks & Spencer's meat.

18 **A. They were -- yes, yes. The pork pies.**

19 Q. We have heard from other people, HIA250, that if the  
20 food wasn't eaten, children were -- it was spooned into  
21 them. Some girls complain they were force fed by some  
22 of the nuns. Is there anything you want to say about  
23 that?

24 **A. Absolute -- well, I didn't experience it and I didn't**  
25 **see it in my time. So I can't -- no.**

1 Q. You go on to describe school here in paragraph 10, and  
2 say that:

3 "After breakfast we went to school, which was on  
4 site."

5 Now this was the primary school.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You talk -- you mention a teacher, a lay teacher, who  
8 was teaching in the primary school.

9 **A. Oh, yes,**

10 Q. We have heard that the nuns who looked after you in the  
11 home also taught in the primary school. Is that right?

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

13 Q. You said there were also children from outside the home  
14 who came into the school, who you described as  
15 highfalutin people.

16 **A. Well, you've got to understand in those days -- right --**  
17 **we were the paupers, you know. You have to look at it**  
18 **in the times, you know.**

19 Q. You say:

20 "Their parents were doctors whereas we were paupers.  
21 We got dinner in school and then we got a meal when we  
22 came back."

23 You remember on Sunday mornings you went to the  
24 massive kitchen, where you would have to make toast and  
25 a huge pot of scrambled eggs to do thirty children."

1    **A. Yes, because do you know why that was? The kitchen**  
2       **staff probably got their time off, do you know? Right.**  
3       **Then somebody had to took the tea and I was sort of --**

4    Q. What age might you have been at this stage?

5    **A. Probably about 14.**

6    Q. You go on to describe how everyone had chores to do in  
7       paragraph 11 --

8    **A. Uh-huh.**

9    Q. -- and you were responsible for making sure all the  
10       younger ones did their chores.

11            "That would be common practice. Someone washed the  
12       dishes. Somebody else dried them."

13            Again you are talking here about when the  
14       dormitories had been transformed.

15   **A. Exactly, yes.**

16   Q. But there were chores to do in earlier days. Isn't that  
17       right?

18   **A. Yes.**

19   Q. You say:

20            "You had to polish the floors in huge rooms at the  
21       weekends. We turned it into a game. We put the wee  
22       ones on the cloths and ran them up and down the floors  
23       and eventually we got a big buffer."

24            You said:

25            "At a certain age I had to go to work in

1 St. Basil's, the old people's home."

2 **A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.**

3 Q. I wondered what age that was at?

4 **A. I think I'd say 14 again. When I say work, now it was**  
5 **only going to set the tables with the china for their**  
6 **tea or high tea and things like that.**

7 Q. You say you served them their meals --

8 **A. Yes, uh-huh.**

9 Q. -- and entertained them sometimes as well.

10 **A. Oh, yes. When I say entertained now, we had choir and**  
11 **we could dance and do things in drama. So maybe on**  
12 **a Sunday for a wee bit of light entertainment children**  
13 **would have went over. By the way, some children played**  
14 **the violin and some musical instruments. So we went**  
15 **over to entertained the children -- the old people.**

16 Q. Old people.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. I was talking to you earlier and I was saying to you  
19 that some people have complained to us that at a much  
20 younger age they were expected to go over and help out  
21 in the old people's section. In fact, some of them had  
22 to actually wash the dead bodies. Do you ever remember  
23 anything like that?

24 **A. Absolutely not, no.**

25 Q. Do you ever remember any of the elderly dying and being



1 taken to see them?

2 **A. Yes. No, because, do you see, the only experience the**  
3 **children now would have had in that would have been when**  
4 **the coffin was left in the chapel, because it was left**  
5 **open. You know the way -- that's my experience of it.**  
6 **I didn't know what death was all about, because there**  
7 **was very little of it in my time.**

8 **Q. Can I just ask one other question just when you mention**  
9 **the chapel there?**

10 **A. Uh-huh.**

11 **Q. What's your recollection of how often you had to go to**  
12 **mass, HIA250?**

13 **A. Well, different times. Now you had Lent and you had to**  
14 **go to mass maybe every morning. Other times of the**  
15 **year -- again in the early days it was quite -- you had**  
16 **retreats, what was known as retreats, and then you went**  
17 **to mass quite often, but as time progressed, that**  
18 **changed.**

19 **Q. We have heard from some people that they went every day**  
20 **to mass and others have said that every group went every**  
21 **-- the three groups went effectively two days during the**  
22 **week and then every Sunday.**

23 **A. Well, every Sunday absolutely, but I think actually to**  
24 **be honest with you when Lent came, you were given**  
25 **a choice. It was your decision if you wanted to go for**

1           **your Lental duty --**

2    Q.    Yes.

3    **A.    -- you know, or whatever.**

4    Q.    But you don't remember the groups taking it in turns to  
5           go to mass during the week?

6    **A.    No, actually I don't, no.**

7    Q.    You go on to talk about bath time in paragraph 12.  You  
8           say that was Saturday.  You said you had to stoke the  
9           fire in the furnace every Saturday to make sure there  
10          was enough hot water for the baths.  That was one of  
11          your responsibilities.  It was out of bounds to the  
12          other girls and most of them didn't even know that you  
13          had a furnace.

14                 Bath routine was quite intense.  You hated it:

15                 "... because we were made to wear a stupid old  
16                 cloth to maintain our modesty.  There were four baths  
17                 and four rows of sinks in each bathroom."

18                 Some people have described tin baths outside in the  
19                 yard.  Do you remember that?

20    **A.    Before my time.**

21    Q.    "Two children held a sheet up while one person got  
22           bathed.  We were in and out of the bath in no time,  
23           because hot water was of the essence.  The bath would  
24           have been changed after a couple of girls had bathed in  
25           it and we were washed with carbolic soap.  The nuns

1 never washed us, although there would have been one on  
2 duty. There was a senior girl appointed to a junior  
3 girl to make sure she washed and dried properly."

4 We have heard from others again that Jeyes Fluid  
5 would have been used in the bath. Do you have any  
6 recollection of that?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. Or one of the other things that I asked you about was  
9 the older girls had to look after the younger girls with  
10 regard to head lice and things like that. Do you  
11 remember doing that?

12 **A. Yes, yes, yes, I do remember that, yes. Actually what**  
13 **happened was when some children came in, the first thing**  
14 **probably was just to clean the heads, because if there**  
15 **was an infestation of anybody, it would have been**  
16 **a harder job. So you had to do that more or less when**  
17 **they arrived in, check their hairs to see if they were**  
18 **clean.**

19 Q. The older girls were responsible for checking that?

20 **A. Well, each younger child was allocated an older girl to**  
21 **be their ...**

22 Q. That was within their group?

23 **A. Yes, within the group, yes.**

24 Q. You say that -- you go on here in paragraph 13 you were  
25 responsible for all the school uniforms, because you

1 were the oldest in your group.

2 **A. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. You had to work in the laundry every week to prepare the  
4 uniforms for all the children, washing and pressing.

5 You said:

6 "It was very hard work, but I had to do it."

7 You had to say that the laundries in the home  
8 changed at different stages as well.

9 "In the '50s there would have been one large laundry  
10 with hot presses and other large machinery."

11 You say:

12 "That was out of bounds to the children. In the  
13 early days when we slept in the huge dormitories, we  
14 took our sheets off, put them on to a sheet in the  
15 middle of the floor. They were gathered up and thrown  
16 at the back door to be taken to the large laundry.  
17 After the home was modernised each group had their own  
18 small laundry with a twin tub washing machine."

19 Now just before I move on from the changes that  
20 there were, some of the people who have spoken to us  
21 said that they actually had to work in the laundry, in  
22 this large laundry, and they had to actually take the  
23 soiled sheets from the old people's home, clean those,  
24 put them into the large industrial washing machines,  
25 then take them out and put them through a presser, like

1 a mangle.

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. You have no recollection of that?

4 **A. No, no children done that, because there was people who**  
5 **worked in the laundry and they were quite adamant. They**  
6 **wouldn't let anybody in. I can't remember the girl's**  
7 **name. Do I need to remember their names or anything**  
8 **like that?**

9 Q. If you can remember, it is helpful. There was someone  
10 called NHB 32 who was supposed to have been involved in  
11 the laundry, if that rings any bell.

12 **A. No. NHB 32 didn't -- wasn't involved in the**  
13 **laundry now. No, she wasn't. She worked with SR122.**  
14 **It wasn't so much in the big laundry. There was three**  
15 **different people in the big laundry. I can't remember**  
16 **her name. One of them had a huge gland in her neck.**  
17 **That's the only way I can describe it. I just can't**  
18 **remember their names.**

19 Q. Don't worry -- don't worry about it, HIA250, but anyway  
20 when things changed, each group had its own twin tub --

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

22 Q. -- to do laundry and wash uniforms. You say your socks  
23 weren't washed every day, but you wanted to go to school  
24 clean. So you would run into the bathroom, clean them  
25 with carbolic soap, and because there were no fires to

1 dry them, you would wring them out and put them under  
2 the mattress to dry.

3 **A. Yes, but that particular sentence goes in the old time,**  
4 **not in the new time, if you know what I mean, because --**  
5 **yes.**

6 Q. So what happened then with the socks later on?

7 **A. Well, the socks would have gone into the twin tub. Do**  
8 **you see?**

9 Q. You also had to stitch the skirts, sewing the pleats to  
10 make sure they were perfect for the children.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You talk here in paragraph 14 about your first  
13 communion, which we have seen the photograph of with the  
14 eight other girls. The dresses were hand-me-downs and  
15 they were used the following year for other girls.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. You changed afterwards. You said there was a wee party  
18 afterwards with fruit and sweets.

19 **A. Uh-huh.**

20 Q. You've said -- we have seen a photograph.

21 You then went to St. Monica's Secondary School. You  
22 had to go for assessment tests when you first went. You  
23 remember being put into one class but working your way  
24 up. So I take it from that you were screened according  
25 to ability. Is that right?

1 **A. Oh, absolutely, in St. Monica's School, yes, yes.**

2 Q. You say this caused problems in one sense, because there  
3 were outsiders -- you were outsiders there, because you  
4 came from the convent, and you believe you were treated  
5 differently because you were orphans in the school.

6 **A. Oh, absolutely.**

7 Q. You were the children -- you were seen to be better off,  
8 because the children from the surrounding areas called  
9 you "the rich kids".

10 **A. Yes, but I have to explain that really in the context**  
11 **that it was. When you went to the school after a while,**  
12 **that was the reflection. It wasn't just when you were**  
13 **straight there. When you got to know a few people and**  
14 **you mingled with other girls in the school and got to**  
15 **know where they lived. I mean, I know a particular girl**  
16 **who lived in Cromac Street and she used to say -- I even**  
17 **gave her my school bag. I swapped school bags. She**  
18 **loved mine. I says to her, "You can take mine". She**  
19 **was too poor to have a schoolbag. Those are the things**  
20 **that I mean, you know.**

21 Q. You talk about making your own clothes in the school --

22 **A. Oh, yes.**

23 Q. -- and about the list of ingredients from the big  
24 kitchen --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. -- to go down to the school. We have seen the tin box  
2 that was shown in the photograph. You have said here  
3 about swapping schoolbags. You said you had  
4 an abundance of some things and lost out on others. You  
5 just tried to learn as much as you could, and after you  
6 went to Rupert Stanley and completed a secretarial  
7 course.

8 One -- the teachers who were in St. Monica's were  
9 not the nuns who were looking after you in the home. Is  
10 that correct?

11 **A. Oh, no, no, no. They were completely different.**

12 Q. But you did say that you were treated differently --

13 **A. Absolutely.**

14 Q. -- by the teachers in St. Monica's --

15 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

16 Q. -- because you came from the convent.

17 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

18 Q. You gave an example of an occasion where there was  
19 a call went out over the tannoy for all the orphans to  
20 come to a particular part of the school, because some  
21 teacher --

22 **A. Was running a party.**

23 Q. -- for the orphans.

24 **A. Like, she was doing a good thing for us, but in the**  
25 **context that it was done, if you know what I mean, it --**



1 Q. It was making you stand out --

2 **A. Yes, of course. Stand out. Exactly.**

3 Q. -- from the other children.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You go on then in paragraph 16 to talk about you started  
6 to ask questions when you were at secondary school about  
7 where you'd come from and so forth. You only knew that  
8 people had two parents when you went to secondary  
9 school, because you had had no experience. You did go  
10 and ask a particular nun, SR134. Again I am using the  
11 name, but it is not to be used outside. You say she  
12 brought you into a room with a huge cupboard. You say  
13 that was actually her classroom.

14 **A. Uh-huh.**

15 Q. She was able to tell you that you were put up for  
16 adoption by your grandparents.

17 **A. Uh-huh.**

18 Q. She was also able to tell you your date of birth, when  
19 your birthday was, because you had no idea. Birthdays  
20 weren't celebrated in the home, but you remember --

21 **A. Not that I can remember.**

22 Q. -- but you remember a celebration on St. Patrick's Day.

23 **A. St. Patrick's Day, which I thought was my birthday,**  
24 **because everybody celebrated.**

25 Q. But, in fact, you were born in November. So ...

1    **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

2    **Q. You say that you also tried to look after the younger**  
3       **children in an emotional sense. Sorry. Can I just ask:**  
4       **SR134, when you asked her this information, did she say,**  
5       **"Just come with me" or how did -- can you remember the**  
6       **circumstances?**

7    **A. "Come along to the classroom." That's all. "Come along**  
8       **to my classroom." She had a big cupboard with stuff in**  
9       **it.**

10   **Q. There were records kept in there?**

11   **A. I don't know whether there were records or not. All**  
12       **I know was she opened this cupboard and she took out**  
13       **a book and I was given that information.**

14   **Q. So it was from a book. It wasn't an individual file on**  
15       **you or anything like that?**

16   **A. No, no, no. Oh, no, no.**

17   **Q. So -- do you know did any of the other girls ever ask**  
18       **her or ever ask for any information?**

19   **A. I would say they would have. I don't really know,**  
20       **because I suppose it depends on what each child was**  
21       **going through. You know, not everybody experienced what**  
22       **I experienced or needed to do what I did because of my**  
23       **circumstances. Some people had their mothers and**  
24       **fathers, so it wasn't necessary for them to do that, but**  
25       **it was a necessity for me.**

1 Q. And you were satisfied with the information she got you?

2 **A. Well, I suppose when you are 11, that's all you are**  
3 **worried about, you know.**

4 Q. But as a -- just coming back to your statement here,  
5 HIA250 --

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. -- you say that as a senior girl you tried to look after  
8 the younger children in an emotional sense. You tried  
9 to do everything for them. You felt as if you were  
10 an older sister to them?

11 **A. I did, yes. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. You would tell them to pray for something special when  
13 they were praying. You do talk about how even after you  
14 left some of them kept in touch with you.

15 **A. Oh, yes.**

16 Q. That role continued throughout your life.

17 **A. Yes, it did, yes.**

18 Q. You then talk here about -- paragraph 18 -- how music  
19 came to play a big part in your life. You say that it  
20 was something that you needed for yourself. You were --  
21 instead of praying you would rather sing.

22 **A. Pop songs. You see, I interpret life through songs.**  
23 **Right? A pop song to me can be religious as well. That**  
24 **was just a thing that -- maybe that's what made me who**  
25 **I am, you know. That's what I've been at.**

1 Q. It's certainly been a big part. When we were talking  
2 earlier, you said that you actually felt that you were  
3 lucky to have the music in your life, that you described  
4 it as a survival mechanism, but then you felt that  
5 wasn't actually what you were trying to say.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. What you said, that this was -- it was an escapism for  
8 you, if I can put it that way --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- from the fact that you felt you were treated -- and  
11 we went on to discuss -- I don't want to put words into  
12 your mouth.

13 **A. Okay.**

14 Q. So please if I've got this wrong, please do correct me,  
15 but you were saying that you were treated differently  
16 from people outside -- by people outside the home from  
17 inside the home.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. That you felt you were treated with contempt by society  
20 --

21 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

22 Q. -- as if you were in a home, you must have done  
23 something bad. You were some sort of lesser person.

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

25 Q. And this was an escape route for you.

1    **A. Yes, absolutely. I mean, for example -- sorry.**

2    I didn't mention this to you before, but it's just come  
3    to me. When I went to St. Monica's School, I had  
4    a lovely singing voice, but I had to stand behind the  
5    curtain to sing. I wasn't chosen for the part because  
6    I came from the home. So that's what I mean. You know,  
7    that's exactly what happened to me, but the beauty of it  
8    was I got to sing. Uh-huh.

9    Q. You talked about there were differences as well within  
10   the home from people like yourself who had grown up  
11   there --

12   **A. Uh-huh.**

13   Q. -- and those who you describe as short-term people --

14   **A. Yes.**

15   Q. -- you know, who had parents and families outside and  
16   had to come in because they were maybe having  
17   difficulties in the home. You said that you -- you said  
18   there were some very sad cases, that you would have  
19   talked to these girls and found out about what their  
20   lives were like, and that's part of the reason why you  
21   tried to be friendly to them and be an older sister to  
22   them.

23   **A. Yes, yes.**

24   Q. One of the things I asked you, HIA250, was did you feel  
25   that these girls who were coming in were presenting more

1 challenging behaviours for the nuns who were looking  
2 after you?

3 **A. Yes, I would say yes.**

4 Q. Do you think that the nuns -- I'm trying to put this in  
5 a neutral way -- that the fact that they were preventing  
6 (sic) a challenging -- a challenge to the nuns, were  
7 they treated in any way differently in your view?

8 **A. Well, see, there were in for such a sort time. When**  
9 **they came in, they would have just been from Monday to**  
10 **Friday and then they got home at the weekends. So**  
11 **obviously they weren't treated the -- well, they**  
12 **couldn't be treated the same as myself, you know,**  
13 **because their time was short.**

14 Q. Paragraph 19 here you talk you about Christmas time.  
15 There was an abundance of parties. Mackie's held  
16 brilliant parties for you. You remember the gifts of  
17 soaps or powders, the Christmas tree in the hall and the  
18 handyman who dressed up as Santa Claus. You say you put  
19 on performances every year. You were Snow White --

20 **A. Sorry.**

21 Q. -- and you say it was wonderful times.

22 **A. I wasn't Snow White.**

23 Q. Oh, sorry. You were the voice.

24 **A. I was the voice of Snow White.**

25 Q. Okay. Yes. Okay. You said that there were times when

1           you could forget about finding out who you were and so  
2           on. Again you saw this as a form of escapism from the  
3           hard times that you were experiencing in life.

4   **A. Uh-huh.**

5   Q. You go on to talk about the violin lessons and drama  
6       classes and so forth.

7           Can I just ask about the Christmas? Were there  
8           lists of people who went to the Christmas parties? Were  
9           certain people selected to go and others not selected to  
10          go or what happened?

11   **A. Yes, there was lists made out. You see, the parties**  
12       **would have went on for quite a few weeks. So there was**  
13       **lists made out for week 1, 2, 3, 4, whatever and then**  
14       **the list was read out. Okay? But then there again**  
15       **a lot of the children who were only in for a short time**  
16       **wouldn't have got experience of many parties, because**  
17       **they went home at the weekends.**

18   Q. What about those children who maybe misbehaved? Might  
19       they have been taken off a list and not allowed to go?

20   **A. Well, I wouldn't be able to answer that. I mean, that**  
21       **would have been the nuns' job, not mine. I don't know.**

22   Q. I am not suggesting that you would have taken them off  
23       the list, but did you know of that happening to anybody?

24   **A. Well, I wouldn't really know, no. Well, I don't know.**

25   Q. Paragraph 20, coming back to it here, you talk about

1 a priest who -- you don't remember who he was, but he  
2 got you second-hand bikes --

3 **A. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. -- and you would have been able to cycle on Sundays to  
5 Hollywood or Ballyhornan. I take it that again was when  
6 you were older --

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. -- that you would have been allowed to do that?

9 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

10 Q. The bikes were shared between the groups. So you would  
11 take it in turns going out for the weekend.

12 One of the things you did say to me as well just  
13 about the whole group system, the word that you used was  
14 there was a bitchiness there, that, you know, if one  
15 group got something, another group could be resentful --

16 **A. Yes, yes.**

17 Q. -- and that that caused difficulties.

18 **A. I wouldn't say it caused difficulty. That's life, if  
19 you know what I mean. That's the way children behave.  
20 If somebody thinks they are getting more than somebody  
21 else, then they bitch.**

22 Q. You say you were able to go to the Ormeau Park, and you  
23 thought one of those photographs that you showed us was  
24 taken there --

25 **A. Uh-huh.**



1 Q. -- and the Ormeau Baths. You said when you were older,  
2 you got to go out to the Starlight Club.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. You were given sixpence in your pocket money every week.  
5 Did that ever change, that amount of money change?

6 A. Oh, absolutely. That -- when I say that, I was only  
7 just going down to the Forum and remembering just off  
8 the cuff, but sixpence was the early -- the early days,  
9 the very early days, and to be honest with you, you  
10 could expand on that, because the shop was in SR134's  
11 classroom. You had a choice, but some people didn't use  
12 the sixpence in the shop. Some people used it to go out  
13 to the Ormeau Road to buy a Woodbine and a match. If  
14 you were caught smoking, lo and behold!

15 Q. Were girls allowed to just go out of the convent as they  
16 wanted?

17 A. Oh, no. That would have come when you were going to  
18 school. When you went to the school, you walked down  
19 the Ravenhill Road, but a lot of girls chose to walk  
20 down the Ormeau Road, because there were shops in it --  
21 uh-huh -- to get their Woodbine and their -- their  
22 Woodbine and their match.

23 Q. You say the shopkeeper would sometimes tell the nuns  
24 what we were buying and then the nun would ask us which  
25 one of us was smoking, but you never told.

1 **A. Well, you couldn't, because, like -- you know what**  
2 **I mean?**

3 Q. You say:

4 "The punishment was very severe, but it was our own  
5 fault, because we broke the rules. The terminology used  
6 in those days doesn't suit today's language. We got  
7 walloped with a stick. We would get punished for  
8 stealing pears and for jumping over the wall in the  
9 canon's house."

10 You say to progress in life you needed to take risks  
11 to know where the boundaries were. You believe that the  
12 punishments that you were getting were mild compared to  
13 what was happening on the outside.

14 Now I asked you what you meant by "getting walloped"  
15 and you say that you got the cane --

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. -- and you were caned in school as well. You also say  
18 you got the strap in school. Some of the girls have  
19 also described being struck by nuns with their hands or  
20 with keys. Do you ever remember anything like that  
21 happening?

22 **A. Well, I had no experience of that. None of our group**  
23 **now I don't think -- I never ever remember any of the**  
24 **girls coming to me and saying, "God! HIA250, such and**  
25 **such done that on my head". No, I haven't got any ...**

1 Q. Do you remember -- you were just saying about the --  
2 sorry. I have just lost the train of thought again.  
3 Sorry. Yes. You were saying you were caned. How would  
4 you have been caned, HIA250?

5 **A. In school?**

6 Q. Or by the nuns in the convent.

7 **A. By the nuns. In the early days now this would have**  
8 **been, as I explained to you in our previous talk.**  
9 **A stick. You had to put your hand out and it was ...**  
10 **(gesturing). That was it.**

11 Q. How many times might you have been caned?

12 **A. Oh, well, it could have been quite a few now on some**  
13 **occasions.**

14 Q. Some have talked -- you talked about there was Irish  
15 dancing in the home. Some have been told they might  
16 have been smacked around the legs for not getting their  
17 legs up high enough during Irish dancing classes.

18 **A. No, and I love dancing and I do remember it very**  
19 **clearly. was our teacher. Well, actually**  
20 **I will say something now. There was a stick used, but**  
21 **it was to do with your carriage, you know, just to keep**  
22 **your shoulders back, but not to be whacked round the**  
23 **legs, not from my experience.**

24 Q. Just one of the things we were talking about, I was  
25 asking you, HIA250 -- I mean, we are only obviously

1 asking you to speak about your experiences --

2 **A. Yes, yes.**

3 Q. -- but you do accept there are a number of people who  
4 have spoken to the Inquiry who may have had very  
5 different experiences to your own.

6 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. I wondered also what you remembered about some of the  
8 nuns who looked after you during your time there,  
9 because you don't really mention them in your statement.  
10 If I can just take them in turns, SR116 was initially in  
11 charge of your group.

12 **A. SR116 -- my experience of SR116 was when I was very,**  
13 **very young. She was a very young nun.**

14 **We use today call her but**  
15 **she was strict. So that's the experience I have of**  
16 **SR116.**

17 Q. SR134 you mentioned there. She had --

18 **A. She taught me in school. Uh-huh.**

19 Q. How would you describe her?

20 **A. Strict, but fine. She done the choir as well. I loved**  
21 **her doing the choir now, because you got to sing, but**  
22 **she was quite strict. You had to pump the organ, you**  
23 **know, in the chapel. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. And the other one, SR134, who would have been there at  
25 the same time as those two.

1    **A.**  I didn't have much to do with SR134 other than go to the  
2       tuck shop, because she kept the tuck shop, but the nuns  
3       really -- each of those nuns really kept to their own  
4       group as such.  The only time you would have had  
5       dealings with them was in the garden, when everybody was  
6       in the garden, or the old kitch... -- the old dining  
7       room, when it was one, but when things changed, each nun  
8       was allocated to their own section.

9    **Q.**  You talk about going out to families at holiday time,  
10     and you say you were put in touch with pen friends and  
11     then often put out to the same families who you were  
12     writing to.

13   **A.**  Uh-huh.

14   **Q.**  You were 11.  You were put up for adoption.  You say  
15     that was quite traumatic.  You can't describe that  
16     obviously briefly --

17   **A.**  In two minutes.

18   **Q.**  -- but you remember being sent to a family who lived on  
19     a farm.  Afterwards you were brought into the parlour  
20     and asked if you would like to go and live with them and  
21     you cried and sobbed and said "No".  You didn't fit in  
22     with them.  That was the end of that.  You weren't  
23     forced to go back again.

24   **A.**  No.

25   **Q.**  Did you go to other families other than this family --

1 **A. I did. Yes, I did.**

2 Q. -- during holiday times?

3 **A. Yes, I did. I experienced that.**

4 Q. How did you find that, HIA250? Was that --

5 **A. Again, as I said to yourself, when you went out -- well,**  
6 **from my own experience when you went out short-term in**  
7 **these families, you might have wanted to stay, but you**  
8 **had no chance, you know. So that's -- to me sometimes**  
9 **I felt it wasn't a good thing, you know, but that's just**  
10 **my take on it.**

11 Q. So even though SR134 had told you that you were put up  
12 for adoption, you certainly didn't want to be adopted by  
13 this family --

14 **A. Oh, no.**

15 Q. -- who wanted you when you were 11?

16 **A. No.**

17 Q. Do you remember was there ever any suggestion of you  
18 being adopted before that?

19 **A. Yes, I think I was put up when I was younger.**

20 Q. But you don't know what happened?

21 **A. No, I don't. Don't know what happened, no.**

22 Q. You have no -- there were no social workers involved  
23 during your time in Nazareth House when you were growing  
24 up. You say that was for a number of reasons, that you  
25 can't cover that.

1 **A. No, there was no social worker involved with me.**

2 Q. Yes.

3 **A. Yes. That's correct, yes.**

4 Q. When we were talking, I asked if there were other  
5 children who did have social workers that you remember.

6 **A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. You remember two names in particular.

8 **A. Yes, yes.**

9 Q. They were a NHB 135 and a --

10 **A. NHB59 --**

11 Q. -- NHB59.

12 **A. -- NHB59 or whatever, yes, yes.**

13 Q. But they never had anything to do with you?

14 **A. No, not that I can remember. Could I just interrupt you  
15 there?**

16 Q. Sure. Of course.

17 **A. Do you know NHB 135 would have been the one that  
18 would have organised the families for children to go out  
19 to --**

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 **A. -- but whether she was involved in getting me the family  
22 I don't know, but I never had any dealings with any  
23 social worker. That's all I know.**

24 Q. You go on here to describe when you were -- the fact  
25 that you would have liked to have had someone who was

1           there and looking after you, particularly when it came  
2           to leaving care.

3   **A. Exactly.**

4   Q. You say that's the most vulnerable time, because you  
5       were going from an environment where you had lived all  
6       your life and there was no preparation for you leaving.

7   **A. Absolutely not, no.**

8   Q. You say you were heartbroken at having to leave and you  
9       had nobody, but you were fortunate enough to get a job.

10 **A. Absolutely.**

11 Q. You had to find somewhere to live by yourself.

12 **A. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You were -- said about the culture shock it was here in  
14       paragraph 23.

15           "At least the home was a form of security, although  
16       it was a false security, because it had to end at some  
17       stage."

18           When you left the convent, you didn't want to be  
19       going back to the nuns to talk about the difficulties  
20       you were facing. You wanted to make it on your own.  
21       You remember thinking that you were spoilt brats when  
22       you were in the home once you saw life from the outside  
23       --

24 **A. Uh-huh.**

25 Q. -- and how you were struggling to cope. You say there



1 was no post-care support whatsoever.

2 **A. Can I just interrupt you there, because, do you see, the**  
3 **different was -- when I say we had things, we had**  
4 **running hot water. We had a bath. I went to homes**  
5 **where they had an outside toilet. That was bizarre to**  
6 **me. Can you understand that? So all those things and**  
7 **the -- our house was big. The houses we went out to**  
8 **were small. So they were all culture shocks as well,**  
9 **and then having to -- well, I did understand the fact**  
10 **that to have a roof over my head I had to work to get**  
11 **a roof over my head to pay the rent, you know. So**  
12 **I couldn't have survived any other way. It was**  
13 **horrendous, horrendous to say the least.**

14 **Q. You left aged 19, was it, you left eventually?**

15 **A. Yes, I think. Maybe 18. I'm not sure. Yes, yes.**

16 **Q. So did you -- you stayed on in Nazareth House for**  
17 **a while after you left school, did you?**

18 **A. I did, yes.**

19 **Q. And you worked there for the nuns?**

20 **A. Yes, yes.**

21 **Q. What did you do when you were working in the home?**  
22 **Did -- what was your job? What role did you have?**

23 **A. Oh, you mean to work as for employment?**

24 **Q. Yes, yes.**

25 **A. Oh, no, I didn't work. No, no, no, no.**

1 Q. Sorry. You talk about in paragraphs 23 to 30 about what  
2 your life was like after did you leave. I am not going  
3 to go into the details of that, HIA250, but the Inquiry  
4 Panel will have read them all other than what we have  
5 been dealing with here about how you felt you were  
6 completely and totally ill prepared --

7 **A. Absolutely.**

8 Q. -- for the outside world.

9 **A. Absolutely, yes.**

10 Q. Just a couple of other things I meant to ask you. We  
11 have heard complaints about bedwetting in the home and  
12 how children were treated who wet the bed.

13 **A. Uh-huh.**

14 Q. You yourself weren't a bedwetter.

15 **A. No, no.**

16 Q. Can you help us with what you remember about that?

17 **A. Well, in our particular group now what I remember was**  
18 **when a girl wet the bed, there used to be a red**  
19 **mackintosh put it on the bed to protect the mattress.**  
20 **Then as time progressed there was this machine,**  
21 **a buzzer, which meant then whatever happened, they were**  
22 **alerted to get up to go to the toilet, but because**  
23 **I didn't wet the bed now -- and I do know a few children**  
24 **in our group who did wet the bed, but I personally --**  
25 **I personally never saw anybody being -- a sheet being**

1 put over any child's head, never. So ...

2 Q. Or do you ever remember any comments being made about  
3 them that were cruel?

4 A. Well, what I will say through children -- right --  
5 and it was a known fact, we all had nicknames for each  
6 other, and if a girl wet the bed -- now I have to say  
7 this -- they were called "Fish", but that's children  
8 being bitchy again. A lot of things were done by  
9 children as well. Children can be very -- I was called  
10 [REDACTED]. We all had nicknames, quite  
11 horrible to each other, but no. That's -- that's my  
12 experience.

13 Q. Yes. You were talking about -- when I was asking you  
14 what your sort of major complaint about your time apart  
15 from the fact that you were ill prepared for leaving,  
16 you felt you were institutionalised and treated  
17 differently as a result of that, that that in itself you  
18 described as a form of abuse, the institutionalisation  
19 of children. Is that fair comment or am I --

20 A. Well, really that's out of my hands. I mean, I was born  
21 as a child. For whatever reason I was put in a home.  
22 Right? I survived it. It wasn't the norm, but  
23 I survived it, if that makes sense.

24 Q. Yes, but I think you were saying -- correct me if I have  
25 got this wrong, HIA250 --

1    **A. Okay.**

2    Q.  -- is that you felt, you know, being walled up away from  
3       society was not a good way to teach children who, like  
4       yourself -- that in itself was wrong.

5    **A. Well, in today's society it wouldn't be. Absolutely**  
6       **not, you know. No. It wouldn't be a good thing.**

7       **I believe now in today's society anyway that children**  
8       **should be kept with their parents no matter what. There**  
9       **should be a social worker. Everything should be**  
10      **documented. That way the parents and the social worker**  
11      **have got everything together. You know, in my case,**  
12      **I mean, I -- my life, I mean, I wondered about my**  
13      **mother. You know, it is just a bizarre life, to be**  
14      **honest, but here I am today. So ...**

15    Q.  Well, HIA250, you will be glad to know that I am coming  
16       to the end of my questions for you.

17    **A. Okay.**

18    Q.  One question we have asked everybody who has spoken to  
19       us about their time in the home is the fact that this  
20       Inquiry has to make recommendations about what should  
21       happen, whether there should be some form of redress  
22       scheme, whether there should be some sort of memorial,  
23       whether there should be some sort of apology from the  
24       congregations or from the State about what happened to  
25       children in care. I'm just wondering what your views on

1 that are.

2 A. Well, those are were the times, weren't they? I often  
3 wonder what would have happened if I stayed with my  
4 parents, but anyway. However, I believe that in today's  
5 climate, because some people when they left the home  
6 weren't able to make it or weren't strong enough to make  
7 it, and I do believe that some of them are living  
8 without oil, without sufficient food and without things  
9 like that. I think in order to make an impact on this  
10 Inquiry they should be given the necessities in life,  
11 which really were taken off them. I think it's a bigger  
12 struggle when you come out of the institution and not  
13 everybody was balanced enough to make it, and I do  
14 believe there should be compensation in that form, maybe  
15 a pension or something like that. You know, some people  
16 didn't get the opportunity to work or get stamps in  
17 relation to the pension. Some people weren't educated  
18 enough to understand these things. Some people now have  
19 reached the likes of myself 60, 65. We will be due our  
20 pension, but will get a very low rate because of their  
21 experience in life, because there was no safety net for  
22 them in the State.

23 Another thing too. All too often from my experience  
24 anyway the State didn't help either, because do you see  
25 when you went looking for things, they didn't want to

1 know. See the minute you said you were from Nazareth  
2 House, och, it was like just, "Off you go". You just  
3 did not belong. Society did not look after when you  
4 came out of the institution, and that's the be all and  
5 end all.

6 Q. Well, HIA250, thank you very much for that. Is there  
7 anything that you feel that we haven't covered either  
8 about your time in Nazareth House or about anything else  
9 that you want to say to the Inquiry? Now is the  
10 opportunity for you to do that.

11 A. Well, I'm here today and I've reached almost 62. Right?  
12 For whatever reasons there are I got my inner strength.  
13 I do want to say to the nuns "Thank you", because what  
14 you've got to understand is as a child, when you are  
15 going through life as a child, I mean, I couldn't at 8  
16 or 9 years of age say to the nuns, "Change this for me".  
17 I couldn't make changes. I had to go with it and I had  
18 to be strong and come out of it and reflect back. There  
19 was very few things I could do, and that was one of the  
20 reasons why maybe I looked after children who were  
21 I would say less fortunate than me.

22 I mean, one particular girl who had a speech  
23 impediment -- I will use this as an example -- was going  
24 for an interview. I decided to go into the interview  
25 before her and say to the interviewees, "She has a speed

1           impediment. It will be show", just like I was a social  
2           worker. That's what I feel that society would have  
3           needed for people who left the institutions in order to  
4           make their lives a wee bit more comfortable. It didn't  
5           happen. So these people didn't make it and live in  
6           maybe uncomfortable surroundings and things like that.  
7           So I think the government owes that.

8    Q. Thank you very much, HIA250.

9    A. Okay.

10   Q. I have nothing further I want to ask you. The Panel  
11    Members may have some questions for you.

12   A. All right. Okay.

13                                   **Questions from THE PANEL**

14   CHAIRMAN: HIA250, can I ask you, first of all, music  
15           obviously played a big part in your life when you were  
16           in Nazareth House, and you described in your statement  
17           how I think when you were about 13 or thereabouts you  
18           bought some LPs --

19   A. Uh-huh.

20   Q. -- or you bought a book --

21   A. A book.

22   Q. -- of the words and presumably the music for songs.

23   A. Uh-huh.

24   Q. You have told us that you got a certain amount of pocket  
25    money.

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Did you save the pocket money up to buy the --

3 **A. Yes, the book, yes.**

4 Q. -- the book?

5 **A. Yes. You got sixpence and the book cost a shilling.**

6 Q. Because an LP would have been rather more expensive than

7 --

8 **A. Oh, no, we didn't buy the LPs. I didn't buy the LPs.**

9 **It was the book. I have the book with me actually.**

10 Q. Yes. It was just the way it came out in your statement

11 the impression was given to me at least that you had

12 enough money to buy an LP or more than --

13 **A. Oh, no, no. We had LPs in our living room.**

14 Q. I see.

15 **A. We didn't -- no child bought the LPs. They were**

16 **supplied, yes. Pocket money came from sixpence for the**

17 **book and that would have increased to maybe a shilling.**

18 Q. Yes. You have described going out in turn, as it were,

19 on bikes. Maybe one group got the bike one weekend and

20 it might be your group's turn the next weekend, going to

21 Hollywood, for example. What age were you when you were

22 able to go out cycling?

23 **A. I was probably about 13, 13, 14.**

24 Q. As young as that?

25 **A. Yes.**



1 Q. So you would be allowed to cycle off for, what, Sunday  
2 afternoon?

3 **A. Sunday afternoon, yes. It was mostly on a Sunday, yes.**

4 Q. Did you have to be back by a particular time?

5 **A. Oh, yes. You only cycled to the place and then back  
6 again. It was just like an exercise thing.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 **A. It wasn't, you know -- it was --**

9 Q. Well, Holywood is not too far on a bike from the  
10 Ravenhill Road.

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. But you said that you sometimes went to Ballyhornan.  
13 Now that would be a long way.

14 **A. Oh, no. We didn't -- sorry -- we didn't cycle to  
15 Ballyhornan. We went to Ballyhornan for our holidays.**

16 Q. But were the bikes taken with you to Ballyhornan?

17 **A. Oh, no. Not that I'm aware of, no. Ballyhornan is  
18 a beach. We were down in the huts for the summer.**

19 Q. It would be a good day's cycle to Ballyhornan and back.

20 **A. No, we didn't cycle to Ballyhornan now. Maybe, yes,  
21 whatever way you interpret that. So ...**

22 Q. You said also when you were older, you were allowed to  
23 go to a club called the Starlight. Where was that?

24 **A. Oh, gosh! That was in the town.**

25 Q. Yes, but in the centre of the city?

1 A. In the city centre, yes.

2 Q. So you would head off in the evenings, would you, down

3 --

4 A. Well, this would have been the senior girls. Right?

5 What happened was so many of us even from the different

6 groups would have rallied at the back door and knew

7 exactly what time you were coming at. Somebody took the

8 responsibility of getting the key. The nun would have

9 given somebody the key. Right? There was me and

10 various other girls from the different groups, and we

11 went to the Starlight, where it was a dance. Do you

12 know a dance where you went to dance the night away?

13 That's what it was.

14 Q. At that time had you left school but you were still

15 working in -- I'm sorry -- still living in the convent?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. So presumably you saved up whatever money you'd made

18 during the week to pay your way in?

19 A. To pay in. Oh, yes, but you got more pocket money then.

20 Q. You got more pocket money?

21 A. Oh, yes. Oh, absolutely. Uh-huh. I just can't

22 remember how much it was into the Starlight funny

23 enough. Yes. I can't remember that.

24 Q. I imagine it was more than sixpence anyway.

25 A. I was only interested in the music and dancing. That's

1           **all I was interested in.**

2    Q.   In any event the nuns would let a group of you go out?

3    A.   **Yes, yes, yes.**

4    Q.   Presumably again you had to be back by a particular  
5           time?

6    A.   **11 o'clock, 12 o'clock we all met at the back door for  
7           the key and God help whoever was late. That's all  
8           I used to say.**

9    Q.   I see. Yes. Thank you very much.

10   A.   **Okay.**

11   Q.   Well, HIA250, thank you very much indeed for coming to  
12           speak to us. Those are all the questions we have for  
13           you. You did say that you had something with you, your  
14           --

15   A.   **Oh, my wee bag.**

16   Q.   Could we see it, please?

17   A.   **My wee cloth bag, yes. I must show you my book too.  
18           Uh-huh. Of course I've a whole lot of photographs in my  
19           wee memory bank here. If I have it. I don't. Oh,  
20           there. Now that's my wee song book that I used to try  
21           and that's my cloth bag that we had for our toothpaste  
22           and our Gibbs -- our toothbrush and our Gibbs  
23           toothpaste.**

24   Q.   Yes. Your wash bag, in other words?

25   A.   **Yes. It was handmade. My name is on it: HIA250.**

1 MS DOHERTY: I remember those books, HIA250.

2 **A. Pardon?**

3 Q. I'm saying I remember those books.

4 **A. Oh, aye. Do you remember them? That's my books I used**  
5 **to write my songs out there. I should have been**  
6 **a producer of songs. What?**

7 CHAIRMAN: It was 15 pence actually.

8 **A. Was it?**

9 Q. Yes.

10 **A. Oh, right. Och, sure, I had hundreds of them. Sure**  
11 **they all got lost.**

12 Q. It says so on the front. I am not speaking from  
13 personal experience.

14 **A. I kept one or two of them. So there you go now.**

15 Q. Well, thank you very much for showing us those and  
16 indeed the photographs.

17 **A. Yes, yes.**

18 Q. The photographs in particular are very helpful to allow  
19 us to get an idea of the layout. Thank you again for  
20 coming to speak to us, HIA250. We are very grateful to  
21 you.

22 **A. Okay. Thank you now.**

23 Q. Thank you.

24 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by  
25 Mr Aiken. I am sure he should be ready by now.

1 CHAIRMAN: Well, we will just rise for a moment or two to  
2 allow him to come in.

3 A. Oh, sorry, Mr Chairman. Did I remember to say "Thank  
4 you" to the nuns?

5 Q. You did.

6 A. I did. Okay. That's fine.

7 (Witness withdrew)

8 (11.50 am)

9 (Short break)

10 (12 noon)

11 WITNESS HIA257 (called)

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Aiken.

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

14 The next witness today is HIA257, originally HIA257, who  
15 is HIA257. HIA257 I am going to call her. She is  
16 aware, Chairman, that you are going to ask her to take  
17 the oath.

18 WITNESS HIA257 (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA257. Please sit down.

20 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE TRIBUNAL

21 MR AIKEN: If we can bring up on the screen, please, 336.

22 HIA257, on the screen if you would just check that this  
23 is the first page of your witness statement. It should  
24 match the hard copy that you have except for the black  
25 marks.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. If we move through, please, to the last page at 345 and,  
3 HIA257, if you look at the last page in your hard copy  
4 and just confirm for the Inquiry that you have signed  
5 your witness statement --

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. -- and you want to adopt the contents of your witness  
8 statement as your evidence to the Inquiry?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. As we were discussing earlier, the black marks are the  
11 Inquiry's anonymity policy or an example of it and you  
12 want to keep your anonymity?

13 **A. Absolutely.**

14 Q. Yes. Now bear with me just for a few moments until  
15 I give the Panel some references.

16 In relation to HIA257's statement the Sisters of  
17 Nazareth replying statement is at 2038 to 2039. HIA257  
18 is aware that paragraph 11 contains an apology to her,  
19 although in her view, as you were saying to me, earlier,  
20 HIA257, you don't see any reason for the nuns to have to  
21 apologise to you.

22 **A. No, absolutely not.**

23 Q. In addition, there are statements that touch on HIA257's  
24 statement from SR153, which is at 2230. You were saying  
25 to me, HIA257, that she was a lovely nun that you have

1 a very warm recollection of.

2 **A. Absolutely.**

3 Q. Then there's a statement from SR45, which is at 1701.

4 She was SR45 during the time she was involved with

5 HIA257 and was at HIA257's wedding. You pointed out to

6 me, in fact, your children were taught by her as well.

7 **A. My children, yes.**

8 Q. That was always a positive relationship you had with

9 her.

10 **A. Yes, but it wasn't just -- she wasn't the only nun at**

11 **the school. There was other nuns at the school --**

12 Q. Yes.

13 **A. -- and there was other girls who were from the convent**

14 **and they sent their kids too.**

15 Q. Yes. So the point you're making is that if things were

16 so bad --

17 **A. Absolutely.**

18 Q. -- why did you all send your children to be educated by

19 the nuns --

20 **A. Absolutely.**

21 Q. -- if they're abusing you.

22 **A. Absolutely.**

23 Q. Now the Health & Social Care Board replying statement

24 then is at 6686 through to 6688. Essentially that

25 statement says to the Inquiry that as far as the HSCB

1 can tell HIA257's time in Nazareth House was as a result  
2 of a private arrangement. She was not formally in the  
3 care of the State.

4 By way of background then, HIA257, you were born on

5

████████████████████

6 **A. I was.**

7 Q. You are now aged 53. You have children of your own and  
8 you point out at the start of your statement that you  
9 began life in the Sisters of Nazareth home in Portadown.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Then at some point you moved to the Bethlehem Nursery,  
12 which was connected to Nazareth Lodge.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Then from there you moved into Nazareth House, but that  
15 was after a period of time being fostered by a family by  
16 the name of ██████.

17 **A. I was -- I never left the home. I was always in the**  
18 **home. So the fostering really -- I was introduced to**  
19 **the family and they kept me with regards to I had to be**  
20 **attending the nursery, but I never lived outside the**  
21 **home. I stayed at weekends and any holidays, but their**  
22 **intention was to adopt me.**

23 Q. The point you make in paragraph 2 of your statement is  
24 you were involved with this lady called NHB59, who your  
25 recollection was was a social worker.



1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. I was explaining to you this morning that that lady  
3 appears to have worked for the Down & Connor Family Care  
4 Society. So she was a lady who came to visit you in  
5 Nazareth House.

6 **A. Not just there. Also when I was residing in [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED], she also came to the house --**

8 Q. And that was a --

9 **A. -- on a few occasions and that was before I was at  
10 school.**

11 Q. That was the [REDACTED] family residence?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. So this is a lady who maintained contact with you and it  
14 appears that she was not an employee of the Welfare  
15 Authority, that she was an employee of the diocese and  
16 was connected to children who were living in Nazareth  
17 House in that private capacity.

18 **A. So I'm led to believe.**

19 Q. I'm not going to bring up the document, but the Panel  
20 have a document at 49164, which is a letter that has  
21 nothing to do with HIA257 but simply is addressed to  
22 NHB59, Nazareth House, and gives some weight to the  
23 suggestion she worked for the diocese rather than  
24 working for the Social Services.

25 You then lived in Nazareth House between

1 31st August 1966, [REDACTED], until  
2 29th February 1976 --

3 **A. That's right.**

4 Q. -- aged 14 and a half. Prior to that you had been, as  
5 we said, in the Nazareth Lodge, Bethlehem Nursery, and  
6 you had, as you say in paragraph 3, a very warm memory  
7 of SR71, who you describe as having been a fantastic  
8 nun, and she and, as we have discussed, SR45 were at  
9 your wedding.

10 **A. SR71 was also the principal of the nursery --**

11 Q. Yes --

12 **A. -- that I attended as well.**

13 Q. -- and you had a very good relationship with her. You  
14 explain in paragraph 6 of your statement that when it  
15 came time for you to move to Nazareth House, SR71 took  
16 you aside and explained to you why that had to happen.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You explained to her you would run away. You would come  
19 back to the nursery.

20 **A. I told her that I didn't want to go. I cried and I told  
21 her that I would run away. I would come back again.**

22 Q. Yes, and, in fact, you go on to explain in your  
23 statement you did do that, but she took you aside and  
24 explained to you before. You weren't just simply taken  
25 without explanation.

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. We looked at the register entry that the nuns in  
3 Nazareth House were provided with the information for  
4 you when you were coming in. That contains some  
5 difficult material that you and I looked at earlier.  
6 I am going to show it to the Panel so they can  
7 understand the context at 4250, please. If we can bring  
8 that up. That refers to the background that whoever  
9 wrote this note -- you were asking me, "Well, who wrote  
10 it and when did they write it?" I said to you  
11 unfortunately one can't tell who the author of it is,  
12 but it seems to record that there was a fostering  
13 arrangement with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED], that that wasn't going  
14 to work out to full adoption. You then came into  
15 Nazareth House on a more permanent basis. It also  
16 suggested that you were you having some medical  
17 treatment and I was asking you do you remember that.  
18 You said to me you don't remember that. You remember it  
19 at a later stage --

20 **A. Absolutely.**

21 Q. -- when you were in the house, but not --

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. -- what's being referred to here.

24 **A. No. I never saw a psychiatrist until basically**  
25 **everything went pear-shaped and I was taken over.**

1 Q. When in Nazareth House then in paragraph 8 of your  
2 statement --

3 A. Sorry. Can I just -- that's not to say I wasn't  
4 a difficult child. I mean, obviously coming in and out,  
5 you're bound to have your ups and downs, and it was very  
6 difficult I remember coming back on numerous occasions  
7 and not wanting to go. I mean, obviously if you're very  
8 happy somewhere, you don't want to return to where all  
9 the girls were. That's not to say that I wasn't also  
10 happy there once I got settled back in again. Life just  
11 went on.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. That's not to say that I didn't experience -- do you  
14 know, that the nuns didn't experience maybe tantrums  
15 with me. I don't remember, but I know that I was  
16 a difficult child. I know I became very difficult.  
17 I know I was also a very intelligent child, and I do  
18 have children today with Asperger's. Now Asperger's  
19 would have went very much undiagnosed in years gone by.  
20 So whether the Asperger's came from me I'm not sure or  
21 whether my husband, but, you know, it presents its  
22 difficulties, and I remember being very much bored with  
23 different things.

24 Q. I can say the Inquiry deals with all sorts of  
25 circumstances like this. None of this is any criticism

1 of you. This is what's recorded at the time. You come  
2 into Nazareth House and you have positive memories of  
3 that bar a couple of examples that we are going to look  
4 at.

5 **A. Right.**

6 Q. You talk in paragraph 8 of your statement, if we look at  
7 338, about you were in the St. Anne's group --

8 **A. I was.**

9 Q. -- which was run by SR116.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. While you talk in paragraph 10 of occasions whenever  
12 SR116 might have hit you, the point that you make here,  
13 as I understand it, is that she wasn't someone who was  
14 running around with a stick hitting children all day.

15 **A. Absolutely not.**

16 Q. You remember on occasion -- you're describing to me in  
17 more detail what you're talking about here is you got  
18 a smack on the bum on occasion and you had your pants  
19 pulled down, because you stepped out of line, and it is  
20 when you stepped out of line that some form of  
21 punishment would have been given.

22 **A. On that particular occasion I was put over her knee and**  
23 **smacked on the bum, yes, but I can't remember what it**  
24 **was on that occasion that I did. I just remember**  
25 **wetting -- she was wearing white at the time.**

1           **I remember wetting her apron.**

2    Q.    You make the point, HIA257, in this paragraph that you  
3           remember seeing other children being hit by her, and  
4           again I was asking you, "What way was that done?" You  
5           said that she used a wooden stick of a particular type.  
6           You describe it as a roly-poly stick.

7    A.    **Yes, there was roly -- they used to do tap dancing and**  
8           **there was roly-poly sticks. On the occasion that I saw**  
9           **her doing that we were -- I was allowed -- SR71 made it**  
10          **possible that I could go down with the girls who were**  
11          **going down to see their brothers on a Saturday. That**  
12          **was her bargain with me. She would let me go down to**  
13          **see her, even though I had no relatives down in Nazareth**  
14          **Lodge.**

15   Q.    Yes.

16   A.    **On one of the occasions that I went down the road I ran**  
17          **across the road. Some guy was giving out sweets, and**  
18          **anyway because I ran away from the girls, the girls that**  
19          **I was with were caned with the roly-poly stick.**

20   Q.    For letting you --

21   A.    **For letting me not be with them.**

22   Q.    They were older girls and they were supposed to be  
23          looking after you --

24   A.    **Yes.**

25   Q.    -- and they got into trouble for not looking after you

1 properly --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- as it was viewed at the time.

4 **A. Nothing happened to me that day.**

5 Q. But the point that you're making here is while there was  
6 some punishment from SR116 at times, it was when you  
7 broke the rules, as it were --

8 **A. Absolutely.**

9 Q. -- or stepped out of line. You weren't just being  
10 gratuitously hit by her.

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. In paragraph 11 you give a particular example -- it  
13 moves then on to the next page as well -- where, to  
14 summarise it, you'd got into trouble during Adoration.  
15 You were sent to SR116's room to stand outside and be  
16 disciplined for that. You gave a different explanation  
17 to her as to why you were there. You went out for the  
18 weekend with your foster family. When you came back, it  
19 looked like you'd got away with it, as you described it,  
20 and then you asked out of SR116's class to go to the  
21 toilet. SR116 came out after you and you were  
22 disciplined for having presumably two problems then.  
23 One is what happened in Adoration, but then also for not  
24 having told the truth about it.

25 **A. Yes. Basically I lied. I was put outside her cell by**

1 the [REDACTED] sisters. There was two of them that I  
2 remember doing the Adoration with that day. I can't  
3 remember what child I was talking to, but I talked to  
4 somebody during it. I don't remember a whole pile of us  
5 doing the Adoration together. There was just so many in  
6 the number. So we must have been doing it throughout  
7 the day. Anyway when I stood outside the cell, she  
8 eventually -- SR116 eventually came by, asked me what  
9 I was doing there. The first thing I could think of  
10 was, "I'll tell her that I don't want to go to my foster  
11 parents", who I didn't -- might I add didn't know they  
12 were my foster parents. I thought she was my mother.

13 Q. Yes. You thought the [REDACTED] were your mum and dad.

14 A. Yes. I told her I didn't want to go. She told me that  
15 they loved me and, you know, not to be silly and all  
16 this here. So she was very loving in her response.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Then I really gave my father -- he worked in the bookies  
19 in [REDACTED]. So it meant he  
20 could go to work on Monday morning and bring me to  
21 school, but I gave him a terrible time, him trying to  
22 get my back, and digging my heels in.

23 Q. Because you knew you were probably going to get into  
24 trouble or thought you were.

25 A. Absolutely. So when he rapped the door and everything



1       seemed to be okay, I thought I had got away with it, but  
2       later on then when I asked to go to the toilet in class,  
3       she told me to wait. There was a wee bathroom with two  
4       toilets next door. She asked me to wait there for her.  
5       So ....

6   Q. When in there you say she took a block of wood from  
7       the workbench in the classroom and used the block of  
8       wood to smack your bottom.

9   A. Well, it sounds very traumatic, a block of wood, but the  
10       wood wasn't that big. It was a block. We used to have  
11       a workbench. It had loads of things that you wouldn't  
12       have today in a class in Primary One. Kids don't know  
13       what they're missing. We had a workbench, a proper  
14       workbench with a vice and we had the nails and hammers  
15       and all the rest. There was no nails in this piece of  
16       wood. The workman, **NHB 102**, would have left old  
17       bits of wood round for us to play with. She lifted  
18       a block of wood, probably that thin, and smacked me on  
19       the backside with it. So ...

20   Q. In --

21   A. My bum was sore. I'm not disputing that, but, you know,  
22       as far as I was concerned I deserved it. As you say, it  
23       wasn't just one thing; it was two.

24   Q. Yes. In paragraph 10 you also talk about the bullying  
25       that went on. I think the point you made to me on

1 a number of occasions was you didn't really see the nuns  
2 very often.

3 **A. No.**

4 Q. The consequence of that was that the older girls tended  
5 to bully the younger girls.

6 **A. Yes, absolutely.**

7 Q. You say that really it wasn't until you could stand up  
8 for yourself that -- that's what you had to learn what  
9 to do.

10 **A. I'm sorry. I -- there's a part also -- there was a lady**  
11 **down in Nazareth Lodge, who shortly after moved up to**  
12 **Nazareth House. So we had a housemother as much. We**  
13 **called her "Miss", but she was a housemother and she was**  
14 **left in charge of us, but yes, there was bullying that**  
15 **went on in between. There was the older girls**  
16 **basically. I remember hitting back eventually when**  
17 **I got old enough that I was able to hold my own and once**  
18 **you were able to get to that point then you weren't**  
19 **touched.**

20 Q. Do you think either the nuns or the lady you're talking  
21 about who came up to be the housemother knew that this  
22 was happening?

23 **A. My God! You had a crowd of children. I mean, I have**  
24 **a crowd of children at home myself and the fighting that**  
25 **goes on is immense, you know, between boys and girls,**

1 different ages or whatever, over silly things, over  
2 things that are important, and we were -- we were like  
3 any other family except a very large family. We fought  
4 the bit out. So -- you know, the housemother would have  
5 tried to stop any -- I don't remember the housemother,  
6 NL143, ever lifting her hand to anyone. In fact, NL143,  
7 because I knew her from the Lodge, she would have taken  
8 me out at weekends. When things went pear-shaped with  
9 the [REDACTED], I also was taken out by different families.  
10 Hers was one of them.

11 Q. Yes. In paragraph 12 of your statement you talk about  
12 the positive recollections you have of the food in the  
13 home.

14 A. Yes, absolutely.

15 Q. The point you make is about the bread and the jam and  
16 the vinegar, salt and pepper and then at a later stage  
17 sauce being on the table.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You describe in the last sentence how an arrangement at  
20 some stage was arrived at with Marks & Spencer's where  
21 they would allow the nuns to have the food that was --  
22 that they weren't going to sell anymore, but it was  
23 still good to eat.

24 A. Yes, absolutely. I still look for that food today.

25 Q. Yes. You remember chocolate eclairs, crisps and

1        yogurts. So the food quality was high, because this  
2        Marks & Spencer's facility was there. There was no set  
3        pattern as to what you got. It was just whatever  
4        happened to be coming.

5        **A. With regards to the extras, the Marks & Spencer's was**  
6        **the extras as in the yogurt, the chocolate eclairs,**  
7        **crisps. They always had -- you know, it wasn't even**  
8        **the small bag of crisps. It was the large bag of crisps**  
9        **we would have got each. There was always fruit**  
10       **available.**

11              The food itself was cooked not just by one of the  
12       nuns in charge of the kitchen but also it was ex-girls  
13       who were employed then at that stage. So there's no way  
14       that they were sending us down rubbish.

15       Q. In paragraph 13 you describe generally events and  
16       activities that you got the opportunity to do. You talk  
17       about Irish dancing. In fact, you --

18       **A. I was a champion at it, yes.**

19       Q. -- you were a champion at the Irish dancing. You also  
20       talk about the violin and accordion classes and taking  
21       part in the choir.

22       **A. Yes.**

23       Q. You entertained the old people.

24       **A. There was also elocution lessons as well.**

25       Q. You make the point that you didn't get on those, because

1           you didn't need them.

2   **A. No, unfortunately.**

3   Q. So they were for --

4   **A. But I wanted to win the prize. The whole thing, you**  
5   **know, that I tried to point out to you earlier is that**  
6   **everything was a competition. Everything that we did**  
7   **with each other was to see who was best from cleaning**  
8   **the floors to singing, to whatever, to dancing --**

9   Q. Well, on the subject of chores --

10   **A. -- and we were encouraged as well. Whatever we were**  
11   **good at we were always encouraged.**

12   Q. The nuns encouraged you to be the best you could be at  
13   whatever it was you wanted to do.

14   **A. Yes, yes. I mean, I was allowed to take the record**  
15   **player in. I used to go into SR199's classroom on my**  
16   **own and take the record player with the Irish dancing**  
17   **tunes and I would have danced every day on my own.**

18   Q. In paragraph 15 of your statement you talk about chores  
19   and there is a number of matters that aren't in the  
20   statement that I just from our discussion earlier I want  
21   you to explain to the Panel, because the Panel has heard  
22   a lot of evidence about the extent of chores that were  
23   required and the -- as I said to you, the Order have  
24   said to the Inquiry again in your replying statement,  
25   paragraph 7, 2039 -- they say yes, chores were engaged

1 in, but they weren't excessive. That's something you  
2 agree with. The point you were making to me earlier was  
3 that it was on a Saturday that there was the polishing  
4 of the floors --

5 **A. Absolutely.**

6 Q. -- that took place.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The one aspect of polishing that took place on a Friday  
9 was the school classrooms.

10 **A. Classrooms, yes.**

11 Q. So the school classrooms were done after school on  
12 a Friday.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Then the rest of the home, including the chapel, was  
15 done on a Saturday.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. But there was no floor polishing going on during the  
18 week.

19 **A. No.**

20 Q. Also there was --

21 **A. Sorry. That's not to say that we didn't tidy up during  
22 the week.**

23 Q. Yes, but --

24 **A. We tidied up. Obviously you had the dishes to do or  
25 whatever and everybody had their job you were allocated,**

1           whatever it was that you were asked to do, but the floor  
2           polishing itself was a Saturday and a Saturday only.  
3           The, come Easter, it would have been -- because Easter  
4           -- the Easter calendar within the church is one of the  
5           most important times of the year. So therefore before  
6           Easter we would have been washing the walls down,  
7           sometimes standing on top of chairs, sometimes using  
8           mops with rags over them --

9    Q.    Yes. Just --

10   A.    -- doing the walls.

11   Q.    -- you got ahead of me there.

12   A.    **Sorry.**

13   Q.    You're okay. I was just about to say to you there was  
14           a deep clean, as it were, which the kids helped out with  
15           at Easter --

16   A.    **Yes.**

17   Q.    -- which included the likes of cleaning down the walls  
18           and so on.

19   A.    **Yes.**

20   Q.    The point you made to me this was just on a grander  
21           scale than you might get your own children to do.

22   A.    **Absolutely.**

23   Q.    The floors, you pointed out a number of them weren't the  
24           parquet floors. They were, in fact, marble floors.

25   A.    **That's right. All the hallways were marble.**

1 Q. They were dealt with --

2 A. With a mop and maybe a scrubbing brush as in a deck  
3 scrub with a handle, but we didn't have to get down on  
4 our hands and knees and do that, no. We usually used  
5 a mop. If there had been a stain or something, you  
6 would have got it out. Don't forget the school  
7 basically went through the large hallway. So there  
8 might have been chewing gum, things like that there. So  
9 you would have got a knife and scraped it or tried to  
10 scrub it with a scrubbing brush by hand, but in general  
11 we didn't have to get down and mop the marble stone  
12 floors, no.

13 Q. So you didn't see the cleaning role you were asked to  
14 perform as a punishment?

15 A. Not at all.

16 Q. You saw it as that's what has to be done to keep the  
17 place in good shape?

18 A. It obviously helped me for later life, as I feel it is  
19 important for my own children to take a role in their  
20 house to help them, that when they get married or  
21 whatever, they'll be able to keep house. It teaches you  
22 cleanliness or whatever. So -- and when we polished the  
23 floors, it was a game. It was an absolute game.  
24 Someone polished the floors. It was a big thing to see  
25 who was going to -- we all lined up. A square room. We



1 all lined up at the top once the floor was polished and  
2 it was to see who got down on their hands and knees to  
3 the bottom.

4 Q. Miss Turley has just reminded me that you mentioned to  
5 me earlier about baking. It is not in your witness  
6 statement, but that that was something that you had  
7 an interest in. You were encouraged and they helped you  
8 learn. Just when you talk about being in a position to  
9 keep house --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- baking was something that you learned.

12 A. Yes. Basically I used to bake at school. You had to  
13 bring the ingredients. You had to go up and get the  
14 stuff weighed out or whatever. So I asked if I could  
15 bake whenever, Saturday or whatever. I was never told  
16 no. In the end I didn't ask. I just went and did it.

17 Q. You talk in paragraph 15 as well, HIA257, in the second  
18 half about bathing and how you never showed your body.

19 A. Today I still don't.

20 Q. You have a means of dressing and undressing that means  
21 you don't have to --

22 A. My kids are amazed at the beach, yes. I can take my  
23 clothes off and put another set of clothes on without  
24 being seen -- any part of my body being exposed.

25 Q. In paragraph 17 of your statement you talk about Father

1           Brendan Smyth. You were saying to me earlier that this  
2           is a memory that really has only come to you --

3   **A. Yes.**

4   Q. -- in the last short period of time --

5   **A. Absolutely.**

6   Q. -- dealing with the Inquiry. You think that it was  
7           Brendan Smyth that you were sent to the parlour to see.  
8           It was someone who offered you sweets, but in the end  
9           you didn't -- you didn't engage with him, and as  
10          a result you left and he asked you to get somebody else.

11 **A. Yes. I had been called to the parlour. At this point**  
12 **my mother -- I wasn't seeing her.**

13 Q. Mrs [REDACTED] you thought was coming to visit you.

14 **A. Yes. Sorry. Not my birth mother. Yes, Mrs [REDACTED].**  
15 **I was -- I was seeing her basically for sort of -- it**  
16 **was Sunday afternoon she would have called and she would**  
17 **have stayed for about an hour, maybe slightly more,**  
18 **and -- but that's -- that became very sporadic, and it**  
19 **was probably the nuns trying to wean her out of my life**  
20 **as such. I didn't really see things that way at that**  
21 **particular time. I didn't understand what was**  
22 **happening.**

23           **Anyway on this particular occasion -- when she came**  
24 **to see me, I would have got a message, because it was**  
25 **a long way from where the parlour was down to where we**

1 lived.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. So I would have got a message "HIA257, you've to go up  
4 to the ..." -- I was called [name redacted] by the way  
5 in the convent --

6 Q. In the home.

7 A. -- to a certain point till my name was changed, and so  
8 I would have got the message, "Come" and, you know,  
9 "You're wanted in the parlour". I wouldn't have been  
10 told who it was. So I would have been -- I wasn't  
11 supposed to run, but I ran the whole way every time that  
12 she did call and, as usual, would have rapped the door  
13 and went in, but on this particular occasion I forget  
14 completely all about this, and I have heard people  
15 saying, "Oh, I forgot" and I went -- I would go to  
16 myself, "Yes, sure. I'm sure that happened". I would  
17 -- but this really did happen to me where I rapped the  
18 door on this particular occasion and it was a man that  
19 I didn't know inside. I remember him saying, you know,  
20 "Come and sit on my knee". Blah-de-blah-de-blah.  
21 I can't remember how he introduced himself or whatever,  
22 but I remember that when I sat on his knee, that I had  
23 jumped off. I kept jumping off and I kept asking  
24 myself, "Why did I jump off that man's knee?" and then  
25 I remembered that I felt something underneath my leg.

1           Now I was a hyper child and there is no way that  
2           I sat for anything to happen. I know that this guy had  
3           asked me, you know, a whole lot of times and he got very  
4           annoyed and very frustrated. Then he told me that  
5           I wasn't getting the sweets and he asked me to go and  
6           get somebody else, and I am almost sure it was HIA 195  
7           ██████████ HIA 195 ██████████ .

8   Q.   What you've said to the Inquiry is --

9   A.   Can I just tell you that when I was -- this didn't come  
10       back to me until I was typing out -- I was actually  
11       typing out my own statement after the statement came  
12       back from the HIA initially. It was only when I was --  
13       I remembered then saying to my mummy, "I was so  
14       disappointed", because she came a couple of weeks after  
15       that, either the next week or the week after.

16       I remember saying to her, because I didn't run up to see  
17       her this time, because I wasn't sure it was her or not.  
18       I remember saying to her how disappointed, because  
19       I cried, because it hadn't -- it wasn't her. She asked  
20       me, "What did he come to see you for?", but I didn't  
21       know. So ...

22   Q.   What you've said to the Inquiry is that you associate it  
23       with Brendan Smyth, because you know he was in the home,  
24       but the person whose picture you saw on TV you didn't  
25       recognise.

1 A. No. I don't -- I don't recognise the old man at all,  
2 but can I also tell you that I did see other priests in  
3 the parlour. I had an experience of going out with  
4 a family from [REDACTED]. The relative was a priest,  
5 [REDACTED]. I was just in Killard House at that  
6 stage. So things must have went pear-shaped with my  
7 mummy and then this was the first family that took me  
8 for Christmas. I got very close to this guy. He  
9 came -- I asked him if he was ever passing would he call  
10 in, and he passed on one occasion, and I saw him in the  
11 parlour. I am just letting you know that, you know,  
12 that I encountered other priests.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. I also had a relationship with [REDACTED] NHB 108, because  
15 [REDACTED] NHB 108 -- I said in my statement that [REDACTED] NHB 108  
16 [REDACTED] NHB 108 -- SR199 picked me up from school. She didn't.  
17 [REDACTED] NHB 108 picked me up from school every Friday.

18 Q. Yes. When you say you'd a relationship with [REDACTED] NHB 108  
19 [REDACTED] NHB 108, you mean he was a priest --

20 A. He was a fantastic man.

21 Q. -- connected to Nazareth House.

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. A nice man. Not -- a friendship is what you are  
24 describing.

25 A. Yes, and the same with [REDACTED].

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. By the way, I also was able to keep contact with [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED] for a while via the phone and he phoned.

4 Q. You explain in paragraphs 18 and 19 of your statement  
5 that you then moved out into a boarding school during  
6 the week and then stayed in Nazareth House at the  
7 weekends.

8 A. Yes, yes. That was after seeing -- well, I went through  
9 a period in primary 3, [REDACTED] class, of -- my  
10 children have glue ear today. So that's why  
11 I understand what I had, but then I didn't know what it  
12 was.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. I never told anybody, but I would have been in the  
15 classroom and you'd hear nothing and then all of  
16 a sudden there'd be a burst of noise, but the noise  
17 wasn't normal noise. It was like a loud sort of -- and  
18 then it would go back in. It was as if I was  
19 underwater. So I had glue ear and it went undetected,  
20 but, as I say, I never told anybody. So nobody could  
21 have known. I wasn't affected -- it didn't affect me  
22 when I was in the normal quarters with the children. It  
23 was only in the classroom.

24 Q. Arrangements were made then for you to go to the special  
25 school. You speak very warmly of [REDACTED] and all he

1 did for you.

2 **A. [REDACTED] is fantastic.**

3 Q. You then continued to live in Nazareth House for  
4 a period of time. You also explain in paragraphs 21 and  
5 22, HIA257, of the occasion -- you wanted to track down  
6 your birth mother. The social worker connected we  
7 believe to Nazareth House through the diocese, [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED], helped you with that. You describe -- and  
9 I am not going to go into the detail of it -- but you  
10 describe going out to that house and the husband asking  
11 you to sleep in the bed. You came back and you were  
12 explaining to me this morning that you told SR199 about  
13 that.

14 **A. No, I told one of the girls.**

15 Q. Told one of the girls who told SR199.

16 **A. Yes. I didn't want to tell anybody, because I didn't  
17 want to stop seeing -- though I had no connection with  
18 my birth mother. I still don't. I don't hate her.  
19 I don't dislike her. I just don't have any feelings  
20 towards her, if you understand, but it was a way out of  
21 Nazareth House --**

22 Q. Yes?

23 **A. -- that I could be in a family. So, therefore, I knew  
24 I had to tell, but I didn't want it to go any further.**

25 Q. You -- your recollection is that SR199 spoke to you

1 about it and then [REDACTED] spoke to you about it.

2 **A. I don't remember [REDACTED] speaking to me about it**  
3 **at all. I just remember SR199 asking me was it true.**

4 **Q. You said to me earlier [REDACTED] then came down**  
5 **again.**

6 **A. Yes. I saw [REDACTED] and SR199 together when they**  
7 **were discussing it. I would just go then for the --**  
8 **just to see them. I wouldn't be staying overnight.**

9 **Q. That was the arrangement that -- as a result of that**  
10 **exchange you weren't to stay over with them again.**

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

12 **Q. You are not aware if that was ever reported to the**  
13 **police or --**

14 **A. I don't know.**

15 **Q. You don't know if that took place. The --**

16 **A. But I do know that my -- I am only too thankful for the**  
17 **nuns having me in the convent in the first place. My**  
18 **sister was abused all her life by her father.**

19 **Q. Yes.**

20 **A. He's dead now.**

21 **Q. You are grateful for the home that was afforded to you.**

22 **A. I am just thankful for God allowing me the history**  
23 **I have.**

24 **Q. As you know from our discussion, there are two questions**  
25 **we ask anyone towards the end of their evidence. The**



1 first is about recommendations. The Panel has to  
2 consider recommendations to the Northern Ireland  
3 Government in three areas: an apology, a memorial or  
4 some other means of redress. When you were speaking to  
5 me earlier, financial compensation through a pension  
6 scheme is something that you wanted to raise.

7 **A. Yes. I think it's important. I've struggled all my**  
8 **life personally just making ends meet. I have quite**  
9 **a few children. So, therefore, it's hard to make the**  
10 **money go round. I would like to think that when I get**  
11 **to my pension age, I think the government owe me big**  
12 **time, and I think when I get to pension age, I would**  
13 **like to think that have a comfortable amount to live on,**  
14 **not sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul.**

15 **Q. When you say --**

16 **A. I also feel -- I also know for a fact there's boys and**  
17 **girls out there. Some are alcoholics. Some have wives**  
18 **with disabilities. They are not able to leave the**  
19 **house, different things like that there. I know also of**  
20 **one of the fellas basically who can't afford his**  
21 **heating. That's now. He can't afford to live. He does**  
22 **voluntary work. He can't get a job. So it is not as if**  
23 **he doesn't want to get a job. He is out there**  
24 **volunteering, but he can't make ends meet. So,**  
25 **therefore, in the winter when I have been up at his**

1 house, it's freezing. He can't put the heating on,  
2 because he doesn't have the money to fill the oil. So  
3 I think people in situations like that there that are in  
4 dire need should really get immediate help.

5 Q. The last question, HIA257, that we ask each witness is  
6 whether there's anything else they want to say. You and  
7 I were having a long discussion over that earlier, as  
8 you know.

9 **A. Absolutely.**

10 Q. I was explaining to you that question relates to  
11 anything else about the home that we are looking at and  
12 your time there in Nazareth House. It is maybe  
13 something I haven't touched on, something I haven't  
14 covered correctly as opposed to wider discussion about  
15 Inquiries and so on and so forth.

16 So is there anything else you want to say about your  
17 time in Nazareth House that perhaps we haven't covered?

18 **A. I think that when I left Nazareth House, I was a very**  
19 **disturbed child. I had just met my parents. I just**  
20 **encountered this whole event with my family, and at the**  
21 **end of the day I believe today that the nuns tried their**  
22 **best for me. I'm not happy ending up in a special**  
23 **school. I'm not happy with the stigma that I have had**  
24 **to endure. I'm not happy that I wasn't able to avail of**  
25 **the subjects that I would like to have done, biology and**

1 science and things like that there, where I feel that  
2 I've really missed out, but as far as I'm concerned the  
3 nuns tried their best for me, and I basically want to  
4 thank them from my heart for the care that they gave me.  
5 I know that there's been a lot of talk of different --  
6 I just feel that at the end of the day for me I was very  
7 gifted to be there. There was nobody else to take me  
8 in. I feel the government could have done much more.  
9 The government weren't too slow in sending the kids to  
10 Australia like tins of meat, and they knew what the  
11 situation was. There was other officials, as I said  
12 earlier, that came in and made statements of that it was  
13 horrendous or it was dismal. You know, if they felt  
14 that, well, then why didn't they do something about it  
15 at all? I feel that I'm a victim. I'm a victim of  
16 rejection. I'm a victim who became a survivor and  
17 I feel that I have become a victim again in this whole  
18 process, you know. I have to sort of pick myself up to  
19 go forward now again. I felt that I had found a place  
20 in life and I found myself regressing and I have went to  
21 places that I didn't want to go through this process.

22 Q. I don't intend to ask you any more questions, HIA257.  
23 It may be the Panel Members want to ask you something.  
24 So just bear with us for a short time and --

25 A. I also want to say that, you know, I feel at the end of

1 the day that my mother, you know, first of all, is  
2 responsible -- also my father, who I don't know and  
3 never met -- but I think she is responsible basically at  
4 the end of the day. Okay. She might have been very  
5 young and not able to do much about it when my  
6 grandmother asked her to go ahead into the convent, but  
7 if there's any blame to be laid, you know, it's not on  
8 the nuns with regards to my own life. It's my mother,  
9 who really also knew about the abuse that was going on  
10 with my sister. So ...

11 Q. Just bear with us for a short time.

12 A. Okay.

13 **Questions from THE PANEL**

14 CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask you one thing, HIA257? You said  
15 in answer to Mr Aiken that you were at Killard House.  
16 Is that the special school you are referring to?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is it near Hillsborough or was it near Hillsborough?

19 A. No. It is Newtownards.

20 Q. Newtownards.

21 A. North Street, Newtownards or North Road actually.

22 Q. Did one of the nuns take you down at the beginning of  
23 the week and you'd stay there during the week and then  
24 someone would come and collect you and bring you back to  
25 the convent?

1 A. SR199 took me down on the Sunday evening. She would  
2 have made it like a journey for some of the girls. They  
3 all would have went down together. I was left off and  
4 then **NHB 108** would have picked me up after school  
5 on a Friday afternoon. Basically the nuns all taught.  
6 This is one of the reasons why I said we hardly saw the  
7 nuns, because we saw them, first of all, in the morning  
8 with regards to morning prayer and then they went to  
9 chapel. We got dressed, washed and then they served the  
10 breakfast for us, and then after that we got ready  
11 and went to school. So that was the end of seeing the  
12 nuns until the afternoon. They served the tea at  
13 teatime. We had to go home and do our homework. They  
14 then served the tea at teatime, and they went off and  
15 got their own tea and said their prayers at 6 o'clock.  
16 So by the time they got their tea after their prayers  
17 basically we might not have seen them until maybe  
18 8 o'clock.

19 Q. Thank you. Were there other girls from the convent went  
20 with you to Killard School? You said something about  
21 other girls a moment ago.

22 A. Sorry. Just something came into my head there. I also  
23 wanted to point out it was one nun in charge of  
24 an immense amount of girls.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I remember SR199 coming down. As soon as the door  
2 opened we all ran towards her, "Sister, Sister, Sister,  
3 Sister". You know, like my own kids go, "Mummy, mummy,  
4 mummy", but, you know, this was an immense amount of  
5 girls, do you know, and this would have been sort of the  
6 reaction on most days, that we were looking to tell her  
7 something that had happened or somebody had done  
8 something. Do you know?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. An immense amount of -- for a young lady really to  
11 contend with who hasn't had her own children.

12 Q. Yes. Quite a lot of witnesses have made that point at  
13 various times, but just to go back to the question  
14 I asked you, were you the only girl from the convent who  
15 went to Killard House?

16 A. Yes, I was.

17 Q. Yes. I'm sorry. I misunderstood. I thought perhaps  
18 SR199 took a number of you down.

19 A. No.

20 Q. It was just you?

21 A. It was just me myself. We went down as a trip. Killard  
22 House -- [REDACTED] told me when he was expelling me  
23 -- I was a bit of a delinquent, and when he was  
24 expelling me when I was 12 years of age from being  
25 a border, he told me that he took me in because he had

1           **heard -- he said I never needed to be there, but he took**  
2           **me in, because he had heard that if I didn't go there,**  
3           **I was going to Scotland.**

4    **Q. Yes.**

5    **A. I forgot to also say that on one occasion NL143 brought**  
6           **me in from standing on the outside of a window sill.**

7    **Q. Well, you have covered that in your statement.**

8    **A. Yes.**

9    **Q. Yes. Thank you.**

10   **A. So I was disturbed.**

11   **MR LANE: This school that you were at, were the sort of**  
12           **problems you had at that time different from those of**  
13           **the other children in the school?**

14   **A. The children that I went to school with had learning**  
15           **disabilities. I didn't have learning disabilities.**

16   **Q. So why do you think you were placed there then?**

17   **A. I was placed there because the man felt sorry for me.**

18   **Q. And where in Scotland would they have sent you? Do you**  
19           **know?**

20   **A. There was a Nazareth House in Scotland. As I say,**  
21           **I knew nothing of this until he was expelling me.**

22   **Q. Why would they have moved you there? Were they finding**  
23           **your behaviour difficult at the --**

24   **A. Well, obviously I had been standing outside on a window**  
25           **ledge.**

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. So health and safety wasn't good. So I honestly don't  
3 know. Nobody told me this from the convent. This came  
4 from his mouth ---

5 Q. Right.

6 A. -- that I had been put down that if I didn't end up in  
7 his school, that's where I was going to end up in.

8 Q. Thank you very much.

9 A. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA257, thank you very much indeed for  
11 coming to speak to us today about your experiences.  
12 We're very grateful for that. Thank you.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (Witness withdrew)

15 MR AIKEN: There may be a logistical issue, Chairman.  
16 Hopefully we could begin again relatively soon possibly.  
17 We have a video link later on, but we may need to try  
18 and work out -- so if everyone stayed close until we can  
19 work out --

20 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We have a witness giving evidence from  
21 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. So if  
22 everyone remains in the chamber, we will let you know in  
23 just a few minutes what the timetable is for the rest of  
24 the day.

25 (12.50 pm)



1 (Lunch break)

2 (1.40 pm)

3 WITNESS HIA175 (called)

4 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness  
5 today is HIA175, who is HIA175. HIA175 is aware,  
6 Chairman, that you are going to ask her to take the  
7 oath. She has a crutch with her and I have said there  
8 will be no difficulty with her staying seated when she  
9 comes to take the oath.

10 WITNESS HIA175 (sworn)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

12 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

13 MR AIKEN: We can bring up, please, 161. HIA175, coming on  
14 the screen will be a copy of your witness statement  
15 except it has the black marks we were talking about.  
16 Can you just check that the hard copy you have matches  
17 the first page that's on the screen?

18 **A. Oh, I forgot to bring it.**

19 Q. You haven't -- well, let me resolve that.

20 **A. Sorry.**

21 Q. It's all right. Not to worry. We'll fix that very  
22 quickly. Miss Turley will bring you ... (Handed.)

23 Can you just check, HIA175, that matches the first  
24 page that's on the screen?

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. And if we go to the last page at 169, and if you look at  
2 the last page of the one in your hand, HIA175, and can  
3 you just confirm that that's the same last page and that  
4 you've signed the copy of the witness statement?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. And you want to adopt it as your evidence to the  
7 Inquiry?

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. From our discussion earlier I was explaining that the  
10 black marks are the Inquiry's anonymity policy in  
11 operation.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. And you want to keep your anonymity?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. Just bear with me for a moment until I give the Panel  
16 some references to material that's in the electronic  
17 bundle that relates to you.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. So you made a statement to the police on 25th May 1995  
20 --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- which was part of Operation Overview, and I will come  
23 back to that. That's at 60311 and 2. Then you made  
24 a further statement to the police on 21st June 2011, and  
25 that's at 61463 and 4.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. They related to your experiences with SR31.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. There is a psychiatric report from Dr Best that's  
5 available through your civil claim. That's of 30th  
6 September 2013. That can be found at 71208 to 71213.

7 Then, as we discussed, there's a replying statement  
8 from the Sisters of Nazareth themselves.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. That's at 2053 to 2055. You are aware, HIA175, that  
11 that contains an apology to you in paragraph 12 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- for any occasions when their treatment fell beneath  
14 an acceptable standard?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. Then the Health & Social Care Board replying statement  
17 is at 5... -- 6567 through to 6572. That also has  
18 exhibits that run from 6573 to 6637. Those exhibits  
19 form a small part of a much larger set of social work  
20 material that has been provided to the Inquiry. That  
21 material runs from 43505 through to 43969. HIA175, you  
22 are aware from our discussions we have looked at some  
23 examples of that material, much of which you don't  
24 yourself remember --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- and we will look at some of those documents briefly  
2 to assist the Panel with its work more generally --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- and I will just summarise what they show as we go.

5 By way of background, you were born on [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]?

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You are now aged 58?

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. There were five siblings in your family, although one  
11 sister has since passed away?

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. You have five children of your own --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- and eight grandchildren?

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You were in Nazareth House from 16th May 1969, aged 13

18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- and you were there until 10th September 1971, when  
21 you were aged 15.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Although, as we were talking about it beforehand, much  
24 the time that you were there you also were in and out to  
25 a foster family --

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. -- or a boarding out placement, as it was called. The  
3 records kept by the nuns, as we were discussing, were  
4 very limited in amount, but the record that there is, if  
5 we can bring up 4198, please, that relates to you, we  
6 can see -- it's the one that has the asterisk -- if we  
7 just scroll down a little, that you came in at the  
8 request of the Down County Welfare Authority.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was talking to you earlier about how this was not the  
11 first time that Down County had taken you into care.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. In fact, that had happened in 1967 --

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. -- when you were aged 10.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. That was an occasion when you went to stay in the  
18 Marmion Children's Home in Hollywood.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. But on this occasion you -- from the records that are  
21 available -- I am just going to summarise them -- you  
22 were removed to a place of safety on 16th April 1969 and  
23 then committed to the care of Down County Welfare  
24 Authority by Newcastle Juvenile Court on 16th May '69.  
25 We will just look briefly at that, please. 43692. This

1 is the court order, as it were, HIA175, that placed you,  
2 and then there's a matching one for your brother  
3 **HIA 368**, placing you into care. Then you were going  
4 to -- if we just scroll down so we can see the date of  
5 it, it is 16th May 1969.

6 If we move back, please, to 43686, we can see the  
7 admission to care form that was completed by Welfare  
8 Authorities. This is an example that relates to you, as  
9 you are being placed. We can see:

10 "State where admitted or to be accommodated:  
11 Nazareth House, Ormeau Road",

12 and the suggestion of 29th April 1969 as the date  
13 for going in.

14 The Interim Order initially of 2nd May '69 and then  
15 the Order we have just looked at of 16th May.

16 During your period in Nazareth House for that almost  
17 two or slightly over two years, you were fostered out  
18 then on a number of occasions with the **██████████** family in  
19 **██████████**.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. You were saying you couldn't remember their name --

22 **A. I couldn't, yes.**

23 Q. -- but you recollect going there. How that came about  
24 may be of interest. If we look at 43706, please, this  
25 is a document that you and I were looking at a short

1 time ago, HIA175. It seems that the social worker  
2 within the Welfare Authority placed an advertisement in  
3 the -- what was known as The Frontier Sentinel and the  
4 [REDACTED] family responded to that. This record records you  
5 and your brother being taken down to visit them and that  
6 initial contact being made that then saw you leave  
7 Nazareth House on a number of occasions to visit them.

8 I am not going to go through the detail of it, but  
9 in the Health & Social Care Board statement,  
10 paragraphs 7, 8 and 9, which are at 6569, the Health &  
11 Social Care Board set out the number of occasions  
12 through '69, '70 that you went out to stay with the  
13 [REDACTED], weekends and in the summertime. You were saying  
14 to me you don't remember going as often as --

15 **A. I don't remember going as often, no.**

16 Q. -- the records tend to suggest. I was showing you -- if  
17 we just bring up, please, 43663 -- that each time you  
18 went out it seems that the Divisional Medical Officer  
19 carried out an examination to confirm that you were not  
20 ill and a similar one was executed then for your  
21 brother. This one was of 19th December '69 with you  
22 going out to the [REDACTED]. We will just show another  
23 example. 43661. This is one of 6th January 1970. It  
24 is you coming back in to Nazareth. We will do one more  
25 example at 43654. This is again you being out with the

1 [REDACTED], coming back in in April 1970.

2 There are various others that cover the various  
3 occasions, HIA175, that you appear to have left Nazareth  
4 and gone to visit the [REDACTED], and then, as you have said  
5 in your statement, ultimately you were not happy there,  
6 because your brother **HIA 368** wasn't happy there.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You didn't feel you were treated very well --

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. -- and ultimately that placement with them came to  
11 an end and it didn't progress any further.

12 I was also asking you in the -- as you know, there's  
13 a huge amount of material, but there's an interesting  
14 reference at 43787. This was a letter from December  
15 '70. I was asking you could you remember -- it's  
16 a letter that the Welfare Officer appears to have  
17 written to SR31 about you and your brother, following  
18 a telephone conversation, and she was confirming that it  
19 was in order for you, as in SR31:

20 "... to purchase 2 pound postal orders for each of  
21 the children and be reimbursed by this department."

22 Do you remember getting a postal order bought for  
23 you or getting the money?

24 **A. I don't, no.**

25 Q. You don't. It may well have happened. You don't have



1 a memory of it.

2 **A. I don't remember.**

3 Q. I was then showing you that in February '71 SR31 then  
4 complained about you and a boyfriend that you had. If  
5 we look at 43941, please, and just maximise that for me.  
6 So this appears to be a record maintained by the social  
7 worker, because it is in the social work file:

8 "SR31 asked me to call today, as she wanted to  
9 discuss HIA175 and **HIA 368** with me. Apparently HIA175  
10 has been seeing some boy which -- while she was out to  
11 see her mother on Sunday afternoon and SR31 was worried  
12 in case she might 'get into trouble'. HIA175 has also  
13 been returning late from school on occasions and it is  
14 thought she was seeing this boy after school.

15 There is a rule in Nazareth House that the girls  
16 don't have boyfriends until they leave school."

17 That may mean including -- that would be leaving the  
18 home as well I think if they were --

19 "SR31 had spoken quite harshly to HIA175 and asked  
20 if I would have a word with her.

21 I saw HIA175 and **HIA 368** together. I tried get over  
22 to HIA175 not the wrongfulness of what she had done but  
23 the fact that she was breaking the rules of the home and  
24 causing SR31 to worry."

25 If we just move on to the next page:

1 "Since she has only a few months left at school,  
2 I suggested she might concentrate on her school work and  
3 think of plans for a job. HIA175 didn't have very much  
4 to say except that it wouldn't happen again.

5 SR31 had told them that they would not be allowed to  
6 go to see their mother by bus, but that she would have  
7 to collect them. This was ..."

8 MR LANE: "Obviously".

9 MR AIKEN: "... obviously upsetting them, as their Sunday  
10 visit to their mother meant so much to the children, and  
11 their mother could hardly be relied upon to come and  
12 collect them. Quite honestly I don't think it would  
13 make much difference one way or the other as HIA175  
14 could still go out from home to meet this boy.  
15 Certainly I would not be in favour of stopping the  
16 children going home.

17 SR31 requested a letter from the Welfare Department  
18 stating that she should continue to allow them to go  
19 home by bus. Said I would discuss the matter with Miss  
20 Thompson and let her know.

21 Discussed with [REDACTED] and it was decided that  
22 I should see [REDACTED] and express to her her  
23 responsibility for the children while they were at  
24 home."

25 Made various unsuccessful attempts to do that.

1           Then:

2           "Phoned Nazareth House and I said I felt it would be  
3           all right to let the children go home on Sunday as usual  
4           and I [wanted to] try and see ██████████ this coming  
5           week."

6           You were saying to me you have no recollection of  
7           having a boyfriend.

8   **A. No, I don't, and can I also say that when -- when myself  
9   and HIA 368 went out of the home, we never ever went out  
10 of the home by bus. It was always my mother would come  
11 to collect us and took us out. That was the only way  
12 that we were allowed out.**

13   Q. So it may be this was a proposal that was in play  
14   potentially to go out by bus, but you don't remember  
15   doing that?

16   **A. No. The only time we went out was when my mother used  
17   to come up and take us. She had to come and collect us.**

18   Q. You and I were looking together at a note then of 17th  
19   June, which was just as you are coming to the end of  
20   your time in Nazareth House. If we look, please, at  
21   43938, you are now 15 and you were 14 at the time of  
22   this note in February. This record is of 17th June '71.

23           "SR31, Nazareth House, telephoned to enquire what  
24   action we were taking with regard -- regarding to HIA175  
25   who was leaving school at the end of the current term.

1 She seemed anxious that HIA175 should leave Nazareth  
2 House as soon as possible after the end of term and is  
3 not prepared to include her in any holiday arrangements  
4 made by the home. She also feels that **HIA 368** should be  
5 transferred to Nazareth Lodge once HIA175 leaves  
6 Nazareth House. HIA175 sat the entrance examination for  
7 the technical college but was unsuccessful. I gathered  
8 from SR31 that she has recently been a bit of a nuisance  
9 in the home, tending to want and get her own way and  
10 very anxious to be out in the world."

11 So it seems SR31 is not well disposed towards you.  
12 Is that how you remember things?

13 **A. Sorry. What do you mean?**

14 Q. You don't seem to have been getting on well with SR31.  
15 Do you remember it like that?

16 **A. I don't remember it like that, no.**

17 Q. You don't?

18 **A. I don't.**

19 Q. You were explaining to me that you then were discharged,  
20 as it were, from Nazareth House and SR31 sent you to  
21 work in the St. Joseph's Babies' Home.

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

23 Q. I was showing you a record that suggested -- if we look  
24 at 4200, this was a record that said:

25 "HIA175 decided to take up childcare. So

1 arrangements were made for her to transfer to St.  
2 Joseph's."

3 Now just if I stop there --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- you were saying to me that you didn't express any  
6 such desire?

7 **A. I didn't know what I was doing. I wasn't asked what**  
8 **I was doing. I was -- I was told -- I was told to pack**  
9 **my bags and then I was taken to St. Joseph's Baby Home**  
10 **--**

11 Q. And who --

12 **A. -- but I didn't know that I was actually going.**  
13 **That's -- I didn't -- you know, to look after children.**  
14 **I didn't know that.**

15 Q. Who told you that you were to pack your bags and you  
16 would be going?

17 **A. SR31.**

18 Q. And that's where you then went?

19 **A. I went to St. Joseph's Baby Home.**

20 Q. You worked there for a period and then it indicates you  
21 transferred to the Good Shepherd. The Panel can see  
22 from the statement --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- what happened thereafter. We were looking together  
25 or showing you a report that was difficult to read, but

1 it showed a summary of your time in Nazareth. If we  
2 look at 43772, please, and it is the second -- if we can  
3 just move down slightly, it is this first substantial  
4 paragraph and the second half of it. It says:

5 "HIA175 and her brother were readmitted to Nazareth  
6 House, Belfast and apart from an unsuccessful attempt to  
7 board out the two children in 1970, the children  
8 remained in Nazareth House until this summer. During  
9 her stay in Nazareth House HIA175 gave little trouble to  
10 the nuns. SR31 always spoke very highly of her. She  
11 mitted school on one or two occasions and gave some  
12 concerns in the associations she was forming, but when  
13 spoken to about this, she was cooperative and followed  
14 advice of SR31 and the social worker."

15 So that summary report, which seems to be at some  
16 stage in '71, doesn't appear to be as strong as the  
17 handwritten notes that there were. I think the point  
18 you were making to me was, "Well, if I was so difficult  
19 a person, why were they sending me to work with their  
20 children in St. Joseph's Babies' Home?"

21 **A. Yes, yes.**

22 Q. Those are the -- you don't yourself remember the content  
23 of what I have been showing you today. You don't have  
24 those memories yourself?

25 **A. No.**

1 Q. No, but you have explained to the Inquiry, if we look at  
2 paragraph 9 of your statement at 163, you have explained  
3 the various difficulties that you remember with SR31  
4 while you were in the home --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- and what does stick in your mind as a memory.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You say that she -- beatings happened on a regular  
9 basis.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. If you weren't doing your chores correctly is one of the  
12 examples that you give SR31 would hit you with a bunch  
13 of keys round the head.

14 **A. Yes, yes.**

15 Q. You were in her group I think you mention in para... --  
16 one of the earlier paragraphs. So you spent most of  
17 your time being looked after by her.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. She was the person in charge of your group.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. **HIA 368** was in your group as well.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. The point you were making to me is he was one of the  
24 first boys to be in Nazareth House.

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

1 Q. That was because the judge making the Order had  
2 expressed the view that if -- I think you said you were  
3 very distressed at the time, as was he -- if you could  
4 be kept together, that would be the ideal.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. I think it was some -- you are maybe the first example  
7 of there being boys in Nazareth House --

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. -- alongside girls in the family unit being kept  
10 together, but you say that in addition to being hit with  
11 the bunch of keys she would describe you as useless or  
12 stupid.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. Was that type of verbal language or abuse, was that  
15 a normal part of life?

16 **A. That was very normal, yes, yes.**

17 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement at 163 on the subject  
18 of the verbal abuse you say that SR31 after the visits  
19 would have made comments about your -- your mum.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You say here she would tell you how lucky you were to be  
22 in the home, because your mummy was an alcoholic who  
23 didn't want you.

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. I was saying to you earlier we will look at slightly



1 later -- SR31 was interviewed in 1996. You were one of  
2 eight people or seven people who made statements to the  
3 police. One of the things you talked to the police  
4 about was this type of verbal abuse. SR31, as you know  
5 -- I was reading to you -- denied that she had even  
6 known that your mother was an alcoholic, never mind said  
7 anything bad about her --

8 **A. Right.**

9 Q. -- but that's your memory --

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. -- of what took place.

12 In paragraph 13 you give an example to the Inquiry  
13 of you and another girl were watching and dancing to  
14 a particular tune on Top of the Pops --

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. -- on the television. SR31 was not impressed with that.  
17 You were hit with the keys on the head --

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. -- and made stand outside her cell.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Now you say "for hours". I presume you don't know how  
22 long it was.

23 **A. I don't know, yes.**

24 Q. It just felt like a long time to you?

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. You mention then in paragraph 16 that the Welfare  
2 Authority had -- Officer had bought you some clothes.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. You say that SR31 didn't let you keep those clothes.

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. That she took them from you.

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

8 Q. You say:

9 "I told the welfare lady, but I am not sure she said  
10 anything to SR31."

11 Can you remember what you said to the welfare lady  
12 as far as you can? If you can't, just say.

13 **A. I think this was actually the second time that we had**  
14 **got clothes in the time we are there, and I had said --**  
15 **she had more or less said that we could kind of pick**  
16 **what we wanted within reason, you know, but --**  
17 **and I said to her, "Well, sure, it doesn't matter. We**  
18 **don't get them anyway", because when we would go back,**  
19 **they took -- SR31 would take them off us, her reason**  
20 **being that because there was other children there who**  
21 **didn't maybe get anything, why should we, you know.**

22 Q. So SR31 gave a reason to you for --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- why the clothes were taken away?

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. Because the Health & Social Care Board have said to the  
2 Inquiry in paragraph 4 of their statement at 6568 that  
3 there are no records in the material that I have here --

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. -- that they have been through and I have been through  
6 that record that or anything being done about it --

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. -- but you are clear that you told the social worker  
9 about it?

10 **A. Yes, I did tell her, yes.**

11 Q. Paragraph 19 you describe another occasion of being hit.  
12 Your mum took you on a day trip to [REDACTED]. You were  
13 so excited by that.

14 "We were away all day. When we got back, we were  
15 half an hour late."

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. "SR31 was waiting on us, and when mum left ...",  
18 she hit you and your brother, and you think you  
19 were about 14 at that stage.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. So you were older.

22 "I always told my mum what was happening to us, but  
23 I'd tell her not to say anything for fear of  
24 repercussions."

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Now by that you mean you would have got into another  
2 trouble in the home if --

3 A. Yes. SR31 would -- in my mind SR31 would never have  
4 took anything my mummy said anyway, because she was just  
5 a piece of dirt, my mum, to SR31, but if my mum had said  
6 anything, then it would have been myself and **HIA 368**  
7 would have paid for it. We would have, you know --

8 Q. Got into trouble.

9 A. Because that -- actually that day that you're talking  
10 about, she was actually quite nice to my mum when she  
11 brought us back and explained to her why we were late,  
12 that it was her fault, that because -- my mum knew I was  
13 worried about that, because of what -- and she explained  
14 to her why we were late, and SR31 was actually quite  
15 nice to her about it, but it was when she left then.

16 Q. I was saying to you earlier the Health & Social Care  
17 Board have said, having looked at the records that the  
18 Inquiry now has as well, that there's no record to  
19 suggest your mum passed on any information --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- that there was a problem with SR31. It is not in the  
22 records.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In fairness that would have been her -- you told her not  
25 to anyway.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. It seems that she perhaps hadn't.

3 I want to ask you about the subject of bedwetting.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of your statement, if we look at  
6 162, please, you talk about it wasn't a problem you had,  
7 HIA175 --

8 **A. No, I didn't have a problem.**

9 Q. -- but your brother did have.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You describe the lengths that you had to go to to try  
12 and keep him from getting punished --

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. -- because you remember a sheet being placed over the  
15 head.

16 **A. Yes, outside the bathroom.**

17 Q. You later realised that one of the individuals, that was  
18 your brother.

19 **A. Yes. I didn't actually know when I was going past at  
20 that minute in time, yes.**

21 Q. Now the Order has said to the Inquiry while they didn't  
22 deal properly with bedwetting generally, they don't  
23 believe that a nun would have made a child have a wet  
24 sheet over their head, but that's --

25 **A. Sorry. They did, yes. They did.**

1 Q. That's what you saw?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Was this -- because this was SR31's group, is this SR31  
4 that would have been involved in this?

5 **A. Yes, yes.**

6 Q. In paragraph 14 of your statement, if we move through to  
7 164, you talk about on one occasion you were sent up to  
8 the old people's part of the home, which was at the top  
9 of Nazareth House.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. "It wasn't uncommon that we would go up there to bring  
12 the old people down to the chapel. However, this time  
13 there was a lady who had died, and I was brought into  
14 the room to help the nun wash her. We then had to put  
15 this white thing on. It was like a nightdress. It was  
16 a very daunting experience for a 13-year-old girl.  
17 I was never told beforehand what I was going to be  
18 doing. I did this on another occasion as well."

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. So was that -- was this -- again is this SR31 has asked  
21 you to go up and help this nun or --

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. -- can you remember -- was it SR31 or some --

24 **A. Yes, it was SR31 who sent me up to help, you know, which**  
25 **I thought it was maybe bringing somebody back down**

1       again, but when I got there, it was -- I was sent into  
2       a room where there was a dead lady and to help to get  
3       her -- it was said to help get her ready for her family  
4       coming up.

5   Q.   In relation to that if we can just bring up 2054,  
6       please, paragraph 5 of the replying statement -- sorry  
7       -- paragraph 7 of the replying statement:

8                "With regard to paragraph 14, this would not have  
9       been an acceptable chore for a child to do and we do not  
10      accept that a child would have been expected to do  
11      this."

12              So the Order is accepting this is not something that  
13      someone should have been asked to do.

14   **A.   Yes.**

15   Q.   You are clear that you did it?

16   **A.   I did it.**

17   Q.   In paragraph 27 then of your statement at 167 you  
18      explain that after you were moved to -- you say moved to  
19      St. Joseph's to work in the nursery and your brother  
20      then is worked to Nazareth -- is moved to Nazareth Lodge  
21      --

22   **A.   Yes.**

23   Q.   -- you say that you wanted to see him --

24   **A.   Yes.**

25   Q.   -- and that wasn't really facilitated.

1   **A. No.**

2   Q. But you agreed with me when we were speaking earlier  
3       that during the time you were in Nazareth House, then  
4       you got to, you know, be together in the group --

5   **A. Oh, yes. We were together, yes.**

6   Q. -- and then you were out --

7   **A. HIA 368 actually slept in a bed beside me, you know,**  
8       **next -- the next bed in the dormitory.**

9   Q. Then when you were out with the family [REDACTED], then you  
10       were together doing that. So the problem came when you  
11       went to two different --

12   **A. Yes.**

13   Q. -- I appreciate the same Order, but two different parts.

14   **A. Yes.**

15   Q. Then I want to move to the Operation Overview that took  
16       place in 1995. It was a big police investigation that  
17       looked at children's homes, mainly focused on Rubane,  
18       but also then had some involvement in Nazareth House,  
19       and file 30 of 41 in Operation Overview -- I am just  
20       going to give the Panel the reference -- that file can  
21       be found in the bundle at 60289 through to 60418. The  
22       summary police report can be found at 60290 through to  
23       60295. There were seven individuals who came forward to  
24       speak to the police. I was asking you could you  
25       remember how that came about?



1 **A. I don't remember how that came about.**

2 Q. But in any event you did speak to the police and you  
3 were one of the seven individuals who made statements  
4 relating to SR31.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. If we just look, please, at 60311, this is the statement  
7 that you made at the time. I know you have had a chance  
8 to have a read over this today --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- HIA175. You say you have no good memories. You  
11 recall SR31 in charge of the unit that you were in. She  
12 beat you on a number of occasions, once for dancing to  
13 Top of the Pops.

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. She beat you with keys that hung by her side.

16 "I ran away from the home once and was taken back by  
17 the police. They found me in a doorway."

18 You then talk about the bed wetting connected to  
19 **HIA 368** and having to wash your brother --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- on occasion, because he was stinking. If we just  
22 move through, please, to the next page, and how if you  
23 hadn't done the floor cleaning properly, then you were  
24 beat with the keys.

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. In addition, then very hurtful things that she would say  
2 relating to your mother.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. If you just scroll down, please, to the bottom. Okay.  
5 I think the reference to SR31 there about the painting  
6 white liquid, that's actually wrong. That happened --

7 **A. That's wrong. That was the Good Shepherd's.**

8 Q. That was in the Good Shepherd that that took place.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. So that statement, amongst others, was put to SR31 or  
11 I think it is SR31 on 19th June 1996. She was  
12 interviewed and the interview runs across 80 pages at  
13 60318 to 60402. I was reading to you earlier, and I am  
14 not going to bring it up now -- the Panel has had the  
15 opportunity to read it -- that she dealt with your  
16 allegations at 60381 to 60390.

17 Now there's just one element of that that I want to  
18 show to you, because the suggestion that it contains,  
19 whenever your allegation is put to her, if we bring up,  
20 please, 60382 and we just look at the bottom, it says --  
21 the reference to the Top of the Pops incident is there  
22 and down the bottom then she says:

23 "A. Never."

24 She wouldn't have used those words.

25 Q. Once again an allegation that you beat her with

1 a bunch of keys. Again the keys are coming up, SR31."

2 Now that's a reference to a number of other  
3 individuals have made their allegations beforehand in  
4 the interview and the police officer is saying here the  
5 issue of hitting with the keys is coming up again. SR31  
6 then says:

7 "A. Yes, indeed, yes. They're very fond of that  
8 one (inaudible) spread it around.

9 Q. Well, what is it you mean by being spread  
10 around; they've spread it around?"

11 She says then:

12 "A. Whether they've been in contact with one  
13 another. Must have been.

14 Q. Would you think that that has happened, SR31?

15 **A. No, it didn't happen at all ..."**

16 **This is the hitting:**

17 **"A. No, it didn't happen at all, but someone has  
18 thought it up and then someone else has passed it on.**

19 Q. Well, who would you think maybe passed this on?

20 **A. I don't really know.**

21 Q. You don't wish to ...",

22 I presume "speculate".

23 "A. I couldn't condemn any of the child really, 'cos  
24 they're all my children. I just did my best to improve  
25 their quality of life and so on."

1           Now did you talk to others about your police  
2           statement in 1995 about talking about the bunch of keys?

3     **A. No, I didn't. I didn't talk to anybody.**

4     Q. Where were you -- can you think back? Where were you  
5           living by 1995?

6     **A. 1995 I would have -- I was [REDACTED].**

7     Q. So you'd moved to the [REDACTED] by then?

8     **A. Yes, yes.**

9     Q. Is it possible that the police got in touch with you as  
10           someone who lived in Nazareth House?

11    **A. I -- I do remember the police coming at one time when**  
12           **I was living in [REDACTED], and it was also to find out**  
13           **where HIA 368 had lived, because of allegations of**  
14           **Father Smyth.**

15    Q. So that might have been --

16    **A. Yes.**

17    Q. -- what led to the --

18    **A. Yes.**

19    Q. -- discussion with the police about it --

20    **A. Yes.**

21    Q. -- and led to the statement, but in any event the  
22           suggestion here is that you have picked up the being hit  
23           with a bunch of keys --

24    **A. No.**

25    Q. -- from others.

1    **A.**  I picked up I was hit with a bunch of keys because I was  
2       hit with bunches of keys.  It wasn't -- it's nobody else  
3       put that into my head.  I never asked anybody else about  
4       it.  This is what happened to me.  This isn't about  
5       seven other people or I don't know about seven other  
6       people.

7    **Q.**  She goes on to deal with each of the allegations in turn  
8       and says, "No, I didn't do those things.  I didn't ..."  
9       -- she says in relation to your mum, for instance, she  
10      didn't even know she was an alcoholic, so she wouldn't  
11      have been saying that about her --

12   **A.**  **She did know.**

13   **Q.**  -- but you are saying that's what happened?

14   **A.**  **Yes.**

15   **Q.**  What we can see is that ultimately a decision -- if we  
16      look at 60295, please, having gathered all this material  
17      together and looked at the totality of it, the decision  
18      was taken in these papers:

19           "Seven separate complainants make allegations  
20      against SR31 and there is a common thread of striking  
21      the girls with a bunch of keys.

22           However, when one takes into account the mostly  
23      minor nature of and length of time since the commission  
24      of the alleged offences, the lack of medical or other  
25      corroborative evidence and the subsequent denials by the

1 Sister, I believe the likelihood of a successful  
2 prosecution is indeed remote, and I accordingly  
3 recommend 'no prosecution'."

4 I was asking you earlier the hitting with a bunch of  
5 keys, you never were cut by it. You didn't need medical  
6 treatment by it?

7 **A. No.**

8 Q. It just wasn't a pleasant thing to happen?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. You made a further statement to the police then in 2011,  
11 which the Panel has at 61463 to 61464. It covers much  
12 the same ground. I think you were perhaps contacted  
13 because the Inquiry had obligations to report to the  
14 police. So they get in touch and you made a statement  
15 --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- saying broadly -- in fact, no. I think it was the  
18 solicitors reported the matters to the police, who were  
19 dealing with your civil claim.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. I don't want to ask you any more than two last  
22 questions, if I may, and it is these, HIA175. At the  
23 end of the Panel's work they have to consider what  
24 recommendations they might make to the Northern Ireland  
25 Government in three areas: some form of apology,

1 memorial or some other means of redress, and we ask each  
2 witness whether there's anything they want to say to  
3 assist the Panel with their thinking about those issues.  
4 Is there anything you want to say about that?

5 **A. Well, actually it would be nice for the like of**  
6 **a memorial or something, you know, for people who never**  
7 **had the chance to voice what happened to them, or**  
8 **apology, you know, because in spite of what SR31 is**  
9 **saying, I have no reason to make these things up about**  
10 **SR31. I was taken off my mother, yes, because she**  
11 **wasn't able to look after us, but we were supposed to be**  
12 **put into somewhere where they were going to look after**  
13 **us, and in my opinion, sorry, but they didn't, you know,**  
14 **and we were children at the end of the day.**

15 **Q. The last question that we ask each witness, HIA175, is**  
16 **whether there's anything else that they want to say. In**  
17 **this case we are looking at Nazareth House and your time**  
18 **there. It might be something I haven't covered**  
19 **correctly or maybe something I haven't covered at all**  
20 **that you want to share with the Panel to assist its**  
21 **work, whether there's anything else that you want to say**  
22 **about your time in Nazareth House?**

23 **A. No. I think no. That's -- just that it wasn't a happy**  
24 **time and -- no. You've covered, you know -- everything**  
25 **else is covered.**

1 Q. Just bear with us, HIA175, for a short time. The Panel  
2 may want to ask you something.

3 **A. Okay.**

4 Q. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA175, thank you very much indeed for coming to  
6 speak to us today. You may be relieved to hear we don't  
7 have any more questions to ask you about, but thank you  
8 very much for coming to share your experiences with us.

9 **A. Thank you for listening.**

10 (Witness withdrew)

11 CHAIRMAN: We will have to rise now, ladies and gentlemen.

12 The last witness today is giving evidence by Livelink  
13 [REDACTED]. As you know from previous  
14 occasions when this has happened, we need to clear the  
15 chamber so that the equipment can be set up, but I would  
16 hope we will be ready to resume the hearings in the not  
17 too distant future, but we will rise now. Thank you,  
18 HIA175.

19 **A. Thank you.**

20 Q. Just stay where you are for the moment.

21 (2.25 pm)

22

23 (Short break)

24 (2.45 pm)

25 (By video link)



1 WITNESS HIA134 (called)

2 MS SMITH: Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and gentlemen,  
3 we're just waiting for the Livelink to ...

4 Hello, HIA134. No, can't hear me. Hi, HIA134, can  
5 you hear me?

6 **A. Yes, loud and clear.**

7 Q. Good. We're now going to go through your evidence,  
8 HIA134, and the Chairman is going to ask you to take a  
9 religious oath and I know there's a bible over there in  
10 front of you, and I also just confirm to the Panel that  
11 you wish the anonymity the Panel has afforded to you to  
12 be maintained.

13 **A. Thank you.**

14 CHAIRMAN: Now, HIA134, can you hear me all right?

15 **A. Yes, sir, loud and clear.**

16 HIA134 (sworn)

17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA134.

18 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

19 MS SMITH: Now, HIA134, just before I come to your evidence  
20 I am just going to tell the Panel where certain  
21 documents are in our papers.

22 HIA134's statement can be found at SNB-6... -- sorry  
23 -- 865 to 871.

24 The congregation's response is at 2114 to 2115.

25 The Health & Social Care response is at 6249 to

1 6250, which indicates that they have no records relevant  
2 to HIA134 and believe she was a private placement in  
3 Nazareth House.

4 Now, HIA134, I am just going pull up on the screen  
5 in front of us your witness statement and I know you  
6 have a copy of that with you over there in [REDACTED]

7 **A. Yes, I do.**

8 Q. So if we could look, please, at 865 or, in fact, if we  
9 go to the last page, can I just ask you --

10 **A. Last page?**

11 Q. Yes. If you would go to the last page and just can you  
12 just confirm, HIA134, that you have signed that witness  
13 statement on 12th January of this year?

14 CHAIRMAN: Last year.

15 MS SMITH: Sorry. Last year. 2014.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. I am behind myself. It is a whole year ago.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. You -- sorry. You want the Inquiry to take this into  
20 account as your evidence together with anything else  
21 that we talk about here today?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Going to the first page of your statement, HIA134, your  
24 personal details are set out in paragraphs 1 to 3.

25 **A. Uh-huh.**

1 Q. You are now aged 53, but up until 1974 you were in care  
2 your entire life. You went from the Baby Home, St.  
3 Joseph's Baby Home, to Nazareth House. You went to  
4 Nazareth House when you were 3 and you stayed there  
5 until you were 12, between June '65 and August '74.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. I know you're nodding, HIA134, but we have to take  
8 a note of your evidence. So I need you to speak as  
9 well.

10 **A. Okay. Yes. Yes, that is true.**

11 Q. Okay. You don't remember much about being in the  
12 babies' home or anything, but your first memory of  
13 Nazareth House you say was lining up for an underwear  
14 change in paragraph 5 here. There would have been seven  
15 or eight rows of you all lined up you think.

16 **A. Yes. There -- yes. Around that many. I mean, there  
17 were big -- Little League girls all the way up to the  
18 big girls. I'd say about six, seven lines maybe.**

19 **I must have been about 4 or 5 --**

20 Q. Okay. Well, you go on then --

21 **A. -- years old.**

22 Q. In paragraph 6 of your statement you go on to talk about  
23 how your troubles began when a certain nun came to take  
24 care of your group. I'm going to use her name, but the  
25 name isn't to be used outside of our chamber. That is

1 SR199. You think you were about --

2 **A. Yes, SR199.**

3 Q. You think you were about 8 or 9 when you -- when she  
4 came to look after you?

5 **A. Well, I'd say 7 or 8.**

6 Q. Okay.

7 **A. I'm not -- about 8, yes.**

8 Q. You actually did correct that. I apologise --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- HIA134. You did correct that before you signed the  
11 statement, and you say:

12 "We didn't see eye to eye at all and I was always  
13 afraid of her. She seemed to have it out for me. I was  
14 a bit of an oddball in the group. I don't know if  
15 that's because I was being financially supported by my  
16 stepfather in ",

17 which you didn't know at the time.

18 **A. Exactly.**

19 Q. There were times when you got dresses and dolls sent to  
20 you, but they were never given to you and you dared not  
21 to question it.

22 Now I was asking you when we were just speaking  
23 a short while ago about how you knew you were being  
24 provided for financially from and you say this  
25 was something that your stepfather told you when he had

1 a row with you when you were over there living. Is that  
2 right?

3 **A. Uh-huh. Yes. We were arguing about my mother or**  
4 **something. He called her a bag of bones or something**  
5 **and I got very upset, and that's when he turned around**  
6 **and said, "Well", you know, like I said, "who supported**  
7 **you all these years?" You know, "What did you learn?",**  
8 **you know, stuff like that, and, you know, he just**  
9 **shouted and said, "I supported you while you were in**  
10 **there and you're not even my daughter". That's it.**

11 **Q. What about the dresses and dolls, HIA134, that you talk**  
12 **about? How did you know that they were sent?**

13 **A. Well, I -- I saw a soldier that was given to me from**  
14 **and a doll and SR199 had them. You know, I got**  
15 **them for like five minutes maybe and then next thing you**  
16 **know they were -- I never saw them again --**

17 **Q. Okay.**

18 **A. -- you know.**

19 **Q. Well, just for the benefit of the Inquiry the**  
20 **congregation have no financial records of people making**  
21 **contributions. That's not to say that your stepfather**  
22 **didn't make them. They simply just don't -- have no**  
23 **records anymore of that --**

24 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

25 **Q. -- just so that you know that, but you go on here in**

1 paragraphs 7 and 8 of your statement, HIA134, describing  
2 sexual abuse by an older girl, who you say --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- you describe in this paragraph 7 what she made do to  
5 you. You say:

6 "After our baths she would dry me",

7 but she wasn't drying you right. Then she made you  
8 touch her. You didn't want to do it, but she was a big  
9 girl and you had to do what she told you. Is it correct  
10 that there were always older girls looking after the  
11 younger girls?

12 **A. Yes. Well, now and again they would have a different**  
13 **girl take the wee ones up and say our prayers and hop**  
14 **into bed and then, you know, once in a blue moon NHB 76**  
15 **NHB 76 would be taking us up. It would be odd times she**  
16 **would do it. I don't know how like I wound up being**  
17 **with her in a bathroom when no-one's in there, and she**  
18 **would call me over and, you know, but that time I did --**  
19 **the one time she took us to bed and I told my friend**  
20 **NHB 103 , my buddy NHB 103 This is the dormitory**  
21 **now, but then they were all divided into rooms, and then**  
22 **it was more private, and I was scared to say anything to**  
23 **anybody all that time, but when NHB 76 put us to bed,**  
24 **I thought she'd left and then that's when I told**  
25 **NHB 103 and I told her -- I said, NHB 103 can you**

1 keep a secret?", you know. I was like, you know,

2 NHB 76 -- I was saying it low enough,

3 because -- but not that low, because she heard me tell  
4 her --

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. -- and then she barged in and then she said, "I'm going  
7 to get SR199. You're going to repeat what you said to

8 NHB 103 You know, I'm not sure if it's word for  
9 word, but it was short, and I stood by the office

10 waiting on her, and then she came up eventually. It

11 felt a long time. "Repeat what you said", and I did,

12 and it was a big joke, you know, really. You know, they  
13 said I made it up, which, of course, I didn't.

14 Q. Uh-huh. SR199, in fact, you said said you were making  
15 it up for attention. That is what you've said in your  
16 statement.

17 A. Yes, I guess. I don't know why she would say I made it

18 up instead of believing me and taking her side and not

19 my side. Instead of protecting me -- I don't know if I

20 was the only one that complained about her. I'm sure

21 I wasn't the only one she picked on, but then again

22 I don't -- I can't analyse that.

23 Q. But certainly --

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. But certainly, HIA134, you told --

1 **A. She chose me.**

2 Q. You told what had happened to you to the nun whenever  
3 you were brought to her and you weren't believed by her.

4 **A. Uh-huh. Right.**

5 Q. You talk about the fact that that left you devastated.  
6 You go on here in paragraph 9 --

7 **A. It sure did, and it still -- yes, yes.**

8 Q. I'll come back to that, HIA134. Don't worry. I'll come  
9 back to it, but just going through your statement here,  
10 you said you had chores to do in the home after that,  
11 and you said SR199 made you do even more.

12 **A. Before we had chores, Christine. Even before we had**  
13 **chores --**

14 Q. Yes.

15 **A. -- but after that I accumulated more chores.**

16 Q. So you were --

17 **A. You know, something just wasn't right.**

18 Q. So you think you were given more work after you made  
19 this complaint about this girl?

20 **A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes, yes, yes. Definitely, and that**  
21 **cubby-hole.**

22 Q. Yes. You talk about being in charge of the bath tubs  
23 and having to clean them, even though you wouldn't --  
24 you weren't allowed to use Ajax. You had to use  
25 carbolic soap to clean the baths. One of the older



1 girls did give you Ajax once and you had the baths  
2 sparkling --

3 **A. Sparkling, yes.**

4 Q. -- but then you got whacked for using the Ajax, as you  
5 describe it.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. What do you mean by "whacked", HIA134?

8 **A. Well, she just started smacking me on my butt and I was**  
9 **lying again, you know, because I did lie that time and**  
10 **tell her I didn't use Ajax, but she found out I was**  
11 **lying. That time I was lying --**

12 Q. Okay.

13 **A. -- and that's when she -- that's when she, you know,**  
14 **whacked me --**

15 Q. Okay.

16 **A. -- on the butt.**

17 Q. You say --

18 **A. And then -- go ahead.**

19 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt you, HIA134. It  
20 is difficult with the Livelink.

21 **A. At times she would have us put our arm up like that and**  
22 **she would just sting us -- well, me. You know, she'd**  
23 **tell us to put our arm like that and she'd start**  
24 **whacking at it, you know, but, yes, I did lie. That**  
25 **time I really did lie about the Ajax.**

1 Q. You talk here about you also had to clean everybody's  
2 shoes. When we were talking, what you meant by that was  
3 the shoes for those who were in your group --

4 A. Oh, yes.

5 Q. -- not the whole home's shoes.

6 A. Uh-huh. Right. Just the group, and they weren't even  
7 done enough, and I used polish.

8 Q. You said you also --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- had to clean a cubby-hole where brooms and things  
11 were kept, and you were scared, because that was small  
12 and dark, and it got smaller the further you walked into  
13 it.

14 A. Yes, because -- uh-huh.

15 Q. Sorry. Go on.

16 A. Because a couple of times they would shut the door on me  
17 and I didn't know who was shutting the door and I would  
18 just be like freaking out, but the deeper you go, it  
19 goes into a V like. You know, it is large, a doorway,  
20 but then the deeper you go, the dark -- of course, with  
21 the door open, but it got darker and darker. SR199  
22 always wanted me to go way in there, you know.

23 Q. You say you were --

24 A. I guess I was scared of the devil or something.

25 Q. You think you were only about 7 or 8 at this time that

1 you were made to go into the cubby-hole to clean it.

2 **A. Yes. A lot of things happened when I was like 7 till**  
3 **11, you know. A lot of the -- I guess because I was**  
4 **getting older, you know, but 7 and 11, all round that**  
5 **age.**

6 Q. HIA134, I was -- you talk about this one group that you  
7 were in, SR199's group. Do you remember other nuns in  
8 the home?

9 **A. SR31. I remember SR153, SR153. I loved SR153. She was**  
10 **our religion teacher --**

11 Q. And --

12 **A. -- and she was a good teacher.**

13 Q. You also mentioned SR31 there. She was also one of your  
14 teachers. Is that right?

15 **A. Yes, and she just gave me bad vibes all the time.**  
16 **I always felt stupid. I was always the last, and**  
17 **instead of concentrating on why I'm always last --**  
18 **I mean, she wasn't surprised. It was always like**  
19 **"Really?", you know. She would snigger when I got it**  
20 **wrong. I mean, really. I seen her a couple of times**  
21 **laughing -- not laughing, but it was -- I mean, it was**  
22 **obvious that she was mocking me, because I couldn't get**  
23 **the answer right, the word spelt right.**

24 Q. This was while you were in primary school within  
25 Nazareth House. Is that right?

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. Paragraph 10 here in your statement, HIA134, you say  
3 that you used to tap the big girls on the shoulder for  
4 attention. You remember one incident when the nuns were  
5 asking who scribbled on the wall and nobody would own  
6 up. You put your hand up and said that you did it, even  
7 though you hadn't, just for the attention.

8 **A. The phone's ringing, Christine.**

9 Q. Is there a phone ringing at your end?

10 **A. I can't -- I can't see it. Let me see. Let's see what  
11 it says:**

12 **"You have an incoming call. Would you like to  
13 answer it?"**

14 **No?**

15 Q. I don't think so, HIA134. I think that's -- obviously  
16 somebody has phoned into the office where you are. Just  
17 ignore that and carry on, if you can.

18 **A. Okay.**

19 Q. You say that you craved attention so much here you are  
20 saying that you admitted to wrongdoing just to get that.  
21 You were spanked by SR199 for this, but the abuse you  
22 say from her was more mental than physical abuse. You  
23 were totally crushed by the fact that she had not  
24 believed you about this girl **NHB 76**, and you remember  
25 another occasion you actually broke your arm, but she

1 didn't believe you --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- when you were telling her it was sore. So it was  
4 three days before you actually got the treatment that  
5 you needed for your arm.

6 **A. Uh-huh.**

7 Q. That happened. It was simply an accident when you were  
8 playing outside that caused the injury to your wrist.

9 **A. Uh-huh. With -- yes, yes, yes, yes -- a piece of wood  
10 from the handle of the skip rope.**

11 Q. Yes, and you were saying --

12 **A. And --**

13 Q. Sorry. You were --

14 **A. Yes, it was and I --**

15 Q. Your wrist is still not quite right today. There's  
16 a prominence there.

17 **A. It's never been the same since, you know, I mean, and  
18 three days -- yes, two nights I slept with it like that.**

19 Q. Now you also say here in paragraph 11 that you -- now,  
20 looking back, you think that you had undiagnosed what we  
21 would call ADHD, which is Attention Deficit  
22 Hyperactivity Disorder, and you have since had that  
23 diagnosis. Is that correct, HIA134?

24 **A. Yes. So you got -- you did -- I did send that.**

25 Q. Yes. We have got a medical report.

1 **A. Scanned it yesterday.**

2 Q. We have got the medical report.

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- that was sent.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. But you think that you suffered from this condition  
7 right back to when you were in Nazareth House and that  
8 you didn't get the help that you needed at that time?

9 **A. Yes. If I was diagnosed it then and they did something**  
10 **about it, I think my head would be a lot more clearer**  
11 **today --**

12 Q. Okay.

13 **A. -- than going through it from there to here, and, you**  
14 **know, I felt like a loser over there. So, I mean ...**

15 Q. Well, HIA134, just to be clear -- and I was explaining  
16 this to you -- the congregation have given us a response  
17 to what you have had to say, and they say that they  
18 regret that no-one recognised that you needed special  
19 care and they are sorry for that.

20 So you go on here to talk in paragraph 12 about the  
21 good times that you remember, about the sponsors, the  
22 people who volunteered their time.

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. They cared about you and made you laugh. You used to go  
25 to Christmas parties and you say that -- I mean, your

1 name was always on the list until this time when you  
2 told about the other girl, **NHB 76** You said that your  
3 name was taken off the list that year.

4 **A. Yes, it was.**

5 Q. You say at Christmas you just got a toothbrush without  
6 toothpaste. The nuns never made sure your teeth were  
7 cleaned --

8 **A. Yes, never.**

9 Q. -- and you had trouble with your teeth as a result.

10 **A. Yes. Oh, yes. Definitely. I had -- yes, but,**  
11 **I mean -- I mean, when I came over here too. So, you**  
12 **know, I didn't -- what I should have learned over there,**  
13 **I should have, you know -- now if I had toothbrush and**  
14 **toothpaste over there, I would have made sure I had**  
15 **toothbrush and toothpaste here, because it was instilled**  
16 **in me, you know. What I learned over there I brought**  
17 **with me.**

18 Q. Okay.

19 **A. Evidently I didn't learn nothing. Even my mother even**  
20 **said it. "What did they ever teach you in that school?**  
21 **Sit like a lady. Did they teach you anything in**  
22 **there?", you know, and I only knew her for one year, you**  
23 **know. Sad.**

24 Q. Yes. I'll come back to you moving across to  
25 HIA134, but the congregation have said it wouldn't have

1 just been a toothbrush that was given to you at  
2 Christmas time.

3 **A. It would have been toothpaste too. Right. I don't**  
4 **recall it. I don't recall it.**

5 Q. You do talk about summertime in the home being good as  
6 well. If you didn't go out to stay with a family, you  
7 had you fun with your -- the rest of your group and the  
8 other friends in the home playing there, but you were  
9 taken out by an elderly woman once when you were about  
10 7. She was very good to you.

11 **A. It was a couple, yes.**

12 Q. A couple of people.

13 **A. It was a couple that took -- yes, a couple took me out.**  
14 **Now I was probably 7, because my tooth was coming out.**  
15 **So that's why I know it was like around there. The**  
16 **couple gave me a bath. I was there, what, two days**  
17 **already, and they rinsed my hair, and there was --**  
18 **I mean, I'm sitting in the tub -- a gallon of creepers**  
19 **all around me, all -- I mean, you could not even see the**  
20 **water. It was -- I was amazed. You know, really**  
21 **I didn't know exactly really what they really were. All**  
22 **I know I would go like this and crack them between my**  
23 **fingers and try to get the big ones and just really**  
24 **scratch real hard to where they didn't want me anymore**  
25 **after that. So they signed papers I guess. They had to**



1        **keep me for the summer. They are stuck with me, but**  
2        **next thing you know I'm at this old woman's house in**  
3        **a cottage. She fine combed my hair and noticing I had**  
4        **scabs in it from scratching, but she -- you know, she**  
5        **cleaned it the best she could.**

6    Q.    Yes.

7    A.    **Yes, she did.**

8    Q.    You say it was the best summer of your life. Even now  
9        you look back on that time --

10   A.    **Yes, it was.**

11   Q.    -- as a good time in your life, but you say that leaving  
12        there and going back to the home was horrible. You also  
13        go on --

14   A.    **Yes, it was, yes.**

15   Q.    You go on in paragraph --

16   A.    **Having experience -- having experience in that cottage**  
17        **was magic. I mean, the lady was just an angel.**

18   Q.    You go on to -- your grandfather used to visit you you  
19        say in the home a lot in paragraph 14 here and  
20        you remember him being in a waiting room and you were  
21        doing cartwheels to get his attention.

22   A.    **Well, yes.**

23   Q.    You say you would hustle him -- you would hustle him for  
24        money.

25   A.    **Well, I really didn't know -- yes, yes, yes.**

1 Q. Again the behaviour that you are describing, HIA134,  
2 this attention-seeking behaviour, you are saying now was  
3 because you were undiagnosed as having this condition  
4 when you were younger I take it.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I don't really know. Maybe so. Maybe so.

8 Q. Okay, but sadly your grandfather sexually abused you  
9 when he came to visit you in Nazareth House. You  
10 describe there --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- in paragraph 14 what he did and the fact that you  
13 kept it a secret, because he was giving you pennies.  
14 You never told your grandmother about it.

15 A. Well, at first it started out as cartwheels, you know.  
16 I really didn't know he was going to go and -- you know,  
17 it was just cartwheels. I wasn't thinking anything bad  
18 or anything, but then, you know, somehow it gradually  
19 got -- and he was giving me pennies, and we are not  
20 allowed to have any money in there anyway, you know.  
21 One has something; no-one has anything, you know. That  
22 was -- it's just -- but I hid the money, and I would  
23 show off the next day in school by jangling my three  
24 pence, you know, to the outside kids. You know, I'd  
25 just go like this with it. Yes, he had his penis out.

1 **Yes, he did, and --**

2 Q. Certainly that happened and the congregation --

3 **A. Well, you know, he wanted me to touch it and stuff.**

4 Q. The congregation have said about that, HIA134, that they  
5 have been upset to learn these things happened to any  
6 child in their care and they offer you a sincere and  
7 profound apology that you did suffer that type of abuse  
8 while you were in their care.

9 You also remember your aunt coming to see you at one  
10 stage and going to see Santa Claus, although you  
11 complain about the fact that you felt you had not proper  
12 clothing on to go and see Santa Claus because of the  
13 photograph you've got.

14 **A. Yes, Christine. Uh-huh, yes, yes, but I didn't**  
15 **realise -- I just saw the photo a couple of years back,**  
16 **and then I'm looking at the jumper and I'm like, "God!**  
17 **That's like three times bigger than me" and it had**  
18 **stains -- I saw it in the photograph, you know. I was**  
19 **like, "I can't believe they put that on me to go and see**  
20 **Santa at C&C", or is it C&A? C&C?**

21 Q. I'm not -- C&A was the shop in Belfast anyway.

22 CHAIRMAN: C&A.

23 **A. C&A.**

24 MS SMITH: Okay. You also talk at paragraph 16 -- I will  
25 leave paragraph 15 for a moment -- but paragraph 16 you

1 talked about an incident involving a boy in the home.

2 I am just going to use his first name, which is HIA 368

3 You thought when you spoke to the Inquiry that he was

4 much older than you, but our enquiries have revealed --

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. -- that, in fact, he was the same age as you. There

7 might have been a month or two's difference --

8 **A. Right. Right. Right.**

9 Q. -- but just that. I mean, what you have described in  
10 paragraph 16 is -- as you say yourself, it was

11 something --

12 **A. Did I say 16?**

13 Q. No, no. In paragraph --

14 **A. Did I say 16?**

15 Q. Paragraph 16, HIA134.

16 **A. Oh, okay. I was going to say no. That's a big, big  
17 mistake.**

18 Q. No. You think that you were aged about --

19 **A. No. He was not --**

20 Q. You think you were aged about 9 or 10 at this time.

21 **A. 9 or 10, yes, and I thought he -- you know, he just  
22 seemed -- maybe because he seemed bigger than me. I was  
23 small. So I just thought he was a lot older than me.  
24 I don't know why, but I did think he was, because he was  
25 initiating it, but I went along with it. So I guess**



1     **A.           and him, yes.**

2     Q.   They were in a different group to you you said?

3     **A.   They were in Sister -- I believe they were in SR31's**  
4     **group, SR31's group.**

5     Q.   You remember them both being                    in the home.

6     **A.   Uh-huh, yes, yes.**

7     Q.   Now paragraph 14 -- sorry.   Yes, paragraph 14, first of  
8     all, you talked about you were supposed to leave to go  
9     to            when you were about 4 years old, but  
10    something happened.   You think there was some issue with  
11    paperwork with your mother's passport that meant you  
12    didn't get to go to            You certainly stayed there  
13    until you were 12.

14            Then paragraph 18 you talk about leaving the home  
15    and how you were -- sorry -- paragraph 17.   You were  
16    told simply that you had a visitor.   It turned out to be  
17    a woman you had never met claiming to be your mother.  
18    We were talking about this.   You have photographs that  
19    were taken of her visiting you when you were much  
20    younger in the home, but you simply have no memory of  
21    that.   She was sitting there, and you were interested in  
22    the bag that she had with sweets.   She sat you down and  
23    said she was going to take you to            You were  
24    delighted about that.   You just said to her, "You're my  
25    mum" and she gave you the bag of sweets.   You then went

1 to live with her in You saw -- there were  
2 arrangements made. You didn't go straightaway. You saw  
3 her about five times after that, and you had to get your  
4 passport, photographs, go to the doctor, and you left  
5 then in August 1974, when you were 12.

6 **A. Yes. No-one was there -- no-one was there to say**  
7 **"Goodbye", 'cos the only one that walked me out them**  
8 **doors -- that door, walking down that hall, was SR199.**

9 Q. So you didn't --

10 **A. No-one was there to say "Goodbye".**

11 Q. You didn't get to say "Goodbye" to the friends that you  
12 had made in the home or anything like that?

13 **A. Any of my friends, you know. Just SR199.**

14 Q. Well, you talk in the remaining paragraphs of your  
15 statement about your life after care, and sadly your  
16 mother died a short time after you went to and  
17 you had a great deal of difficulties in your life. You  
18 ended up addicted to drugs and alcohol.

19 You talk about the effects in paragraph 21 here.

20 You said you:

21 "... had a hard time of it when I left Nazareth  
22 House. I felt so lost. There was no routine and  
23 nothing was scheduled. It was like living on another  
24 planet. I was missing my chums from Nazareth House.  
25 I turned to pot and alcohol to block it all out.

1 I became chemically dependent on crack cocaine and I was  
2 in and out of jail. I was modelling for a while, but  
3 then I got hooked on drugs. I don't know how I survived  
4 at all except by the grace of God. I have been clean  
5 nine years now and have had a job in a hotel for eight  
6 years and I'm finally getting it together."

7 You never married and didn't have children, although  
8 you have a person -- a boyfriend for a while. He was  
9 you say the second person to show that he loved you  
10 after the old woman, but you have a dog, [REDACTED],  
11 who you are very fond of.

12 **A. Uh-huh. Yes.**

13 Q. You say in paragraph 22 that the abuse that you suffered  
14 in Nazareth House has affected you deeply. You haven't  
15 really had much sex with a boyfriend as a result of the  
16 pain you suffered in the incident in the bathroom and  
17 the abuse by the girl has never left you either. You  
18 don't like anybody touching you at all and it has most  
19 definitely affected your life and been haunting you to  
20 this day.

21 You did say you never reported any of this to the  
22 police and the Inquiry was the first time that you felt  
23 able to open up and speak about the time of your time in  
24 Nazareth House. Is that correct, HIA134?

25 **A. Yes, Christine.**



1 Q. You -- I was saying to you that in their response  
2 statement in the final paragraph of it the congregation  
3 have offered you an unreserved and sincere apology for  
4 any treatment you received by any Sister which fell  
5 below the acceptable standard and any suffering you  
6 experienced while in their care.

7 I am reading that to you, HIA134, because the next  
8 question I am going to ask you is about what  
9 recommendations this Inquiry should make to the Northern  
10 Ireland Government. They have to consider a number of  
11 things: whether there should be an apology, and if so,  
12 from whom; whether there should be some sort of redress  
13 scheme by way of compensation; whether there should be  
14 some memorial, and I wondered what your views were about  
15 what should happen?

16 **A. Well, something -- I mean, it's already done. So that's**  
17 **why it's like kind of late to do -- I guess it's just up**  
18 **to the individual. I mean, my life is already screwed**  
19 **up. So I don't think anything really, as long as they**  
20 **acknowledge what they did to me.**

21 Q. Well, finally, HIA134, I can see that you are upset and  
22 I don't want to take much longer here, but is there  
23 anything you feel we haven't covered about your time in  
24 Nazareth House that you want to say, or anything you  
25 feel we have left out, or anything more that you can add

1 to your time there that you want to tell the Inquiry  
2 about?

3 A. Well, I am just saying, I mean, it's -- I have been here  
4 -- like, you know, your childhood is your roots, you  
5 know. I never -- I never got a chance to be who  
6 I should have been. Whatever that was I don't know,  
7 because I've always had so low, so low, low, low, low  
8 self-esteem my whole life, and it is root of Nazareth.  
9 If the nun hadn't been targeting me it seemed like --  
10 even at that age I felt it. It is not that I was being  
11 paranoid at that age. There is no way you can be  
12 paranoid. Kids are innocent. They -- I mean, it is not  
13 hallucination. I mean, she made me feel like I'm  
14 a nothing, SR199, I mean, you know, and then going  
15 through that, not believing what I said to my friend --  
16 I wasn't even going to tell SR199 until NHB 76  
17 barged in. I was going to keep it a secret, but, you  
18 know ...

19 Q. HIA134 --

20 A. And that was humiliating.

21 Q. Yes, yes. Well, HIA134, I have no further -- sorry.

22 A. And just -- okay. It was just bringing it all over from  
23 there to here with nobody to talk to about it. I didn't  
24 even know who I was then or there or then and now I'm  
25 still in the mix of it all, but I have been nine years

1       **clean and, you know, when I just get -- I'm still**  
2       **totally lost.**

3    Q.   Well, HIA134, thank you very much.  I have nothing else  
4       that I want to ask you.  The Inquiry Panel may have some  
5       questions for you.  So I'll just hand you over to them.

6    **A.  Thank you.  Thank you, Christine.**

7                               **Questions from THE PANEL**

8    CHAIRMAN:  HIA134, can I just ask you one question, if  
9       I may?  You have described how you would get a few  
10       pennies from your grandfather and then any money you got  
11       was taken away from you in the home.  Was that something  
12       that happened normally?  I mean, if you got a small  
13       amount from a visitor, was it taken away from you?

14   **A.  Well, I would give it in one of the outside kids for**  
15       **a fudge bar or something.**

16   Q.   Yes.  You made a remark that:

17                "We were not allowed to have money.  One has  
18       something; no-one has anything."

19                Was there any practice on the part of the nuns of  
20       taking money or presents away from some children who had  
21       them to make sure everybody was the same?

22   **A.  Well, that's -- you know, when I was looking back, you**  
23       **know, I was remembering stuff, but I would get the doll**  
24       **and the soldier and then, you know, of course, you just**  
25       **forget all about it when you don't see it, you know, and**

1 I must have forgot about it, because I didn't really --  
2 no kid had -- if one child had something, we are all  
3 supposed to have it. That's how it really was there,  
4 but one can't have something and another can. That's  
5 pretty much the way it was, and that I can understand,  
6 but just having it for a moment and then taking it away,  
7 you wonder, you know, but imagine now I am 53. It's  
8 a long time ago.

9 Q. Well, HIA134, you will be very glad to hear that my  
10 colleagues don't have any questions to ask you. So that  
11 is all we need to ask you. Thank you very much for  
12 sharing your experiences with us today. We can see it  
13 has not been easy for you, and we are also very grateful  
14 to you for speaking to us at a time that I am sure is  
15 not very convenient to you in given the  
16 time span between us. Thank you very much for your  
17 evidence. Thank you.

18 **A. Thank you for caring.**

19 MS SMITH: Thank you very much, HIA134.

20 **A. 'Bye, Ellen. 'Bye, Christine.**

21 Q. 'Bye.

22 (Video link terminated)

23 Q. That concludes today's evidence, Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Well, we will resume at the  
25 usual time or as soon as possible after that tomorrow

1 morning, ladies and gentlemen.

2 (3.50 pm)

3 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning)

4 --ooOoo--

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25