

-----  
HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
-----

being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Thursday, 12th March 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 102)

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

1 Thursday, 12th March 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 Statement read of WITNESS HIA375

4 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. As always,  
5 can I remind everyone to turn off their mobile phones or  
6 make sure they are on "Silent"/"Vibrate" and also remind  
7 you that no photography, and indeed no recording, is  
8 permitted anywhere in the chamber or on the Inquiry  
9 premises.

10 MS SMITH: Yes. Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members,  
11 ladies and gentlemen. The first witness I'm going to  
12 talk about today is HIA375. I will call her "HIA375" as  
13 her first name. She is unable to attend. The Inquiry  
14 has received a note from her general practitioner to  
15 that effect and has agreed that her evidence can be  
16 summarised.

17 Her witness statement can be found at SNB-730  
18 through to 739.

19 The congregation's response is at 2013 to 2014 and  
20 the Health & Social Care Board response is at SNB-6684  
21 to 6685.

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Perhaps I should just remind everyone where  
23 a witness' evidence is either read out or, as Ms Smith  
24 has indicated, in this case summarised, we proceed on  
25 the assumption that the anonymity that has been

1 conferred is being maintained, and therefore all the  
2 usual prohibitions about repeating names outside the  
3 chamber apply.

4 MS SMITH: Indeed, Chairman.

5 The statement of HIA375 is on the screen and her  
6 personal details are set out there in paragraphs 1 and  
7 2. You will see in paragraph 2 she indicates her family  
8 was reported by the head teacher of her primary school  
9 to Social Services. Now there is an issue as to whether  
10 or not this was a Welfare Authority placement. The  
11 congregation's register has HIA375 and her siblings  
12 being referred by the Belfast Welfare Authority in their  
13 register, which I will just give you -- the reference  
14 numbers for that are SNB-4517 and 4518.

15 However, the Health & Social Care Board have no  
16 records on this family that they have been able to  
17 obtain to date, but in any event the most we can  
18 ascertain is that they do appear to have been referred  
19 by Belfast Welfare Authority according to the  
20 congregation's records.

21 She was in Nazareth Lodge from [REDACTED] until  
22 [REDACTED] -- sorry -- 1969. I beg your pardon.  
23 [REDACTED], and then was readmitted in  
24 [REDACTED], although there is no note of when she was  
25 actually discharged from the home.

1 Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 set out her memories of  
2 arriving in the home, and she would have been at that  
3 stage -- she was born in 1963. So she would have only  
4 just been 6 at the time that she went into Nazareth  
5 Lodge.

6 She then talks in paragraphs 7 to 10 about how she  
7 was a much neglected child before she came into the  
8 home. That would have been obvious from her appearance.  
9 She says she was thrown to the sidelines by the home.

10 "The teachers in her primary school should have  
11 noticed this and reported it to Nazareth Lodge, as I had  
12 not settled. I was small for my age. Although I was  
13 aged 4, I might have looked 3."

14 Now she clearly, if she was born in 1963, would have  
15 been older than she recollects. She says that she was  
16 forced to eat and remembers being sick, because she was  
17 made to eat porridge and drink hot milk, and to this day  
18 can't have either. She says sometimes her sister would  
19 eat her food for her:

20 "... because that was the rule and we had to clear  
21 our plates."

22 Certainly we have heard evidence that while most --  
23 the congregation would say children were encouraged to  
24 eat so they wouldn't feel hungry, but they don't accept  
25 that encouragement amounted to forcing children to eat.

1           She says that she went to St. Joseph's Primary  
2           School, which was beside Nazareth Lodge. She said in  
3           the school she cried a lot and she didn't learn  
4           anything. She was never asked if she was all right.  
5           She remembers the teacher shouting at her to stop  
6           crying, but couldn't.

7           She -- then if we go on down to the next paragraph,  
8           she said her:

9           "... sister was in Primary 5 and I just sat and  
10          cuddled her all the time. I didn't learn -- she didn't  
11          learn and I didn't learn, and I always felt a sense of  
12          rejection, be it in the home or in a school."

13          She talks about the separation here from her  
14          brother, who was in the nursery, and the effect that  
15          that had on her in paragraph 10.

16          She said in paragraph 11 that:

17          "The nuns did not have any childcare skills or  
18          understanding of children. They did not know how to  
19          show us love or comfort us. I found out in later years  
20          that they were being paid to care for us. I am still  
21          angry with Social Services, as it was their duty to make  
22          sure our physical, emotional and educational needs were  
23          being met by the Sisters of Nazareth, but they didn't do  
24          this."

25          She goes on then in paragraph 12 to talk about the

1 care worker who was in charge of her group and she gives  
2 a name there. It is NL155. I should say that the  
3 Inquiry has not been able to identify this person in any  
4 greater detail other than the first name that has been  
5 given by HIA375 in her statement. She says:

6 "I don't know how she ever came to work with  
7 children. I can only describe her as an animal. She  
8 should never have been allowed to work with children.  
9 We were petrified of her. I don't recall playing very  
10 much in the home. We just sat and watched TV, afraid to  
11 move from our chairs. I always felt frightened and to  
12 this day I am still frightened of authority."

13 She describes this care worker as a very lazy woman:

14 "I recall an occasion when a fruit man came into the  
15 home. He had a big box of fruit and we all jumped up to  
16 greet him. She was ever so nice to him, and when he  
17 left, she made us get down and polish the floors before  
18 we could get -- we would get any of the fruit. She said  
19 to us, 'You're not getting any fruit until you polish  
20 that floor'."

21 The congregation in their response statement have  
22 said -- at paragraphs 3 and 4 of that statement they  
23 deal with the allegations that were made about the  
24 adequacy of the food in the home and they also  
25 apologised for the separation of the family, and then

1 with regard to the staff they have said that they  
2 employed staff with the utmost faith in their ability to  
3 ensure that the needs of the children were met and on  
4 occasion this was not always upheld, and they would not  
5 accept that any abuse, physical or mental, of a child by  
6 a member of staff was appropriate or defensible.

7 She talks in paragraph 14 in her statement about the  
8 routine in the home as being very strict and goes on in  
9 the next two paragraphs to describe difficulties that  
10 she had with toileting and problems that she had and the  
11 experiences that she still suffers today as a result,  
12 and also notes that she was very reliant on her sister  
13 to look after her in the home.

14 She also talks then in -- I should say that she  
15 describes them being treated as robots. The  
16 congregation would not accept that description of how  
17 the children were treated in the home, and in  
18 paragraph 14 they say that:

19 "There would have been a set routine. That would  
20 not have been uncommon even in family homes. During the  
21 week the children would allow -- follow a routine which  
22 was set around their school day."

23 They don't accept that they were treated like robots  
24 within that practice.

25 Paragraph 15 she talks about an incident where the

1 -- as I said, the issues with her toileting and being  
2 locked in the bedroom at night. The congregation say  
3 that the bedroom doors were not locked at night.

4 At paragraph 18 she goes on, if we can scroll on  
5 down, please -- she talks about the dormitories being  
6 dark and you weren't allowed to share with anyone.

7 "I really needed to be close beside my big sister as  
8 I shared a bed at home with her. I was always  
9 frightened and missed my parents. My bed was not beside  
10 any of my sisters, so I just lay and cried on my own  
11 quietly. I still have a fear of the dark, because we  
12 were not never allowed any lights on."

13 The congregation would say the children were  
14 encouraged to stay in their own beds and would not be  
15 allowed to share beds with their siblings or friends.

16 Paragraph 19 she describes that her:

17 "... parents would have sent wee presents up to us.  
18 It was their way of showing love, but we didn't get to  
19 keep them. On one occasion we were told to put them in  
20 our lockers, but they disappeared."

21 She said:

22 "The other children did not take them or we would  
23 have known."

24 She talks about her parents coming to visit. She  
25 said that was a bittersweet time, because they didn't



1 understand why they were in the home. She describes  
2 sitting at a big mahogany table similar to a board table  
3 and her brothers and sisters being there on the visits.

4 She also relates an incident involving her mother  
5 and her mother attacking this care worker who had cut  
6 her sister's curly hair. She said that they had  
7 witnessed a lot of violence at home and the Sisters  
8 would have been informed about this and should have  
9 known they came from that environment. I think the  
10 complaint is therefore that they should have treated  
11 them differently as a result of knowing that.

12 She talks about telling her parents -- being told  
13 that her parents didn't want them anymore because she  
14 cried all the time by this care worker. In later years  
15 her sister told her that on the day that this incident  
16 happened where she started screaming that she had, in  
17 fact, had to be sedated. That was because her brother  
18 was allowed to go home. He wasn't part of the court  
19 order, but she said that she was told nothing and  
20 nothing was explained to her. She has indicated here  
21 that there was a court order putting them into care,  
22 which again suggests that they were the responsibility  
23 of the Welfare Authority.

24 She talks about bath time and that being very  
25 stressful. She says they were lined up naked like

1 robots.

2 "Clothes were trailed off us and we stepped into  
3 a shower-like basin, where we were washed very roughly.  
4 No concern for our dignity. The nuns were involved in  
5 washing us and it was bedlam."

6 The congregation have said that the Sisters would  
7 not have bathed the children and that would normally  
8 have been done by lay staff within Nazareth Lodge.

9 She says -- she talks about refugees being brought  
10 into the home, because it was the time of The Troubles.  
11 Children lived at one side of the home and the refugees  
12 at another. Now this is the first time this has come to  
13 the attention of the Inquiry from anyone. It may well  
14 be that the congregation may have some information as to  
15 whether at the height of The Troubles when people were  
16 being put out of their homes, that they may have sought  
17 refuge in the convents. There may be some information  
18 about that.

19 "I believe we were in the home on many occasions --  
20 separate occasions, but according to the records we were  
21 there on two separate occasions. I don't think this is  
22 correct, because of the confusion over our ages at the  
23 different times we were in and out of the home. We were  
24 sent home at Christmas time, and although sometimes it  
25 was no better, there was a sense of belonging. I am

1 still frightened of authority due to the regime in the  
2 court -- in the home and being in court."

3 She does talk then of a lovely teacher in the school  
4 that she was sent to, who was very gentle, and  
5 a complete difference to the way she was treated in this  
6 school to how she was treated at St. Joseph's. She says  
7 each time she went to Nazareth Lodge, she was put back  
8 into Primary 1, and that had an impact on her education.  
9 She said that she was made to sit the 11 Plus, despite  
10 the fact that she was sure to fail it.

11 CHAIRMAN: Miss Smith, it is far from clear from the account  
12 she gives as to how long she was in the home.

13 MS SMITH: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN: The records suggest that it was something in the  
15 order of three months --

16 MS SMITH: Well, the records --

17 CHAIRMAN: -- in the sense that that's the only time that is  
18 specifically accounted for.

19 MS SMITH: That's correct.

20 CHAIRMAN: She says in the paragraph that you have just  
21 drawn to our attention that:

22 "Each time I went in I was put back into Primary 1  
23 again."

24 Then if we look at SNB-737, paragraph 34, she  
25 finally says:

1 "This all stems from my experience of Primary 1."

2 So although it's unclear, such references as she  
3 does make would suggest that, however often she went in,  
4 it was during her P1 year and not during any later year  
5 insofar as she takes it anywhere.

6 MS SMITH: Yes, indeed. I mean, the records that we have  
7 show she was readmitted after -- she was in from January  
8 to March --

9 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

10 MS SMITH: -- and then readmitted again in June --

11 CHAIRMAN: Yes, but there's no discharge date.

12 MS SMITH: -- but we don't know when she was discharged, no.

13 CHAIRMAN: The point I am making is the internal evidence  
14 from her account, such as it is, might tend to suggest  
15 that after being readmitted on 4th June, she may have  
16 been discharged again, may have been readmitted  
17 subsequently, but if it all happened during her P1 year  
18 and she doesn't go in until January, she may not have  
19 been there for very much longer than three months.

20 MS SMITH: That's certainly entirely possible. We can't be  
21 sure, and certainly, as I said, she seemed to think she  
22 was a lot younger when she was in the home, but if her  
23 date of birth is in 1963 and she is there in 1969, then  
24 that was age 6. That would have been Primary 1.

25 CHAIRMAN: Yes, but it is far from clear once one comes to

1 take it all into account.

2 MS SMITH: Yes. It is unfortunate. It is unfortunate. If  
3 as -- what records we do have suggest she was put in by  
4 Social Services, by the Welfare Authority, then those  
5 records might have been able to assist us with just how  
6 long she was in the home.

7 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MS SMITH: As I have said, she believes in paragraph 25 here  
9 that she was in and out of the home on a number of  
10 occasions, but each time she was put back into Primary  
11 1. That may be a mismemory on her part, if I can use  
12 that elision of words, but certainly we can't really be  
13 clearer than what she remembers.

14 CHAIRMAN: No, we can't take it any further than that.

15 MS SMITH: No. She does talk again, as I said, in  
16 paragraph 26 about the fact that she felt she had a lack  
17 of education.

18 She does say in paragraph 27 that no social worker  
19 visited during her time in Nazareth Lodge or she  
20 certainly has no memory of social workers coming to  
21 Nazareth Lodge, although she does remember them coming  
22 to her family home a number of times. She has no  
23 recollection of any inspectors ever visiting the home,  
24 although she does recall being dressed up on occasions  
25 when there may have been visitors.

1           She doesn't remember being hit in the home, but she  
2           says that she knows that older -- the bigger girls did  
3           get hit and they may have taken the beatings for the  
4           younger girls, but what she recalls is the rejection and  
5           emotional trauma, being made to feel stupid. It is only  
6           now she realises she is not stupid.

7           She says she wore glass and was always falling over  
8           and has scars, but she doesn't know how she got those.  
9           Her parents told her that she must have fallen.

10          She describes in life in care after whatever time  
11          she got out of Nazareth Lodge in paragraphs 29 to 43.  
12          I don't propose to go into those in any detail.

13          At paragraph 41 she indicates why she spoke to the  
14          Inquiry. She said:

15                 "I have thought long and hard about coming forward  
16                 to the Inquiry process. My decision was made due to the  
17                 struggle and hardship I have had to endure. Now more so  
18                 than ever my decision has been made because of the  
19                 recurring nightmares I am having that may be indicating  
20                 repressed feelings that have been pushed down and have  
21                 not yet come to the surface. I now finally want to put  
22                 this little child within me to bed and at rest by  
23                 standing up for her, giving her a voice, letting her  
24                 know that she is important and equal to everyone.

25          I don't remember any happy, bright days while in

1 Nazareth Lodge. All I remember is being frightened and  
2 unhappy."

3 The congregation, as they have done with each person  
4 who has spoken to us in this module, in their response  
5 statement have offered HIA375 an unreserved and sincere  
6 apology for any treatment she received by any Sister  
7 which fell below the acceptable standards.

8 Until there's anything further with which I can help  
9 the Inquiry, that would summarise this applicant's  
10 evidence.

11 CHAIRMAN: I don't think so. Thank you.

12 MS SMITH: Chairman, the witness who is to give evidence  
13 this morning is to be taken by Mr Aiken. I am not sure  
14 whether he is ready to deal with her yet, but if we take  
15 a short break, I am sure he will be ready shortly.

16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 (10.45 am)

18 (Short break)

19 (11.10 am)

20 WITNESS HIA9 (called)

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

22 The next witness today is HIA9, who is HIA9. HIA9,  
23 Chairman, is aware you are going to ask her to take the  
24 oath.

25 WITNESS HIA9 (sworn)

1 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please sit down, HIA9.

2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

3 MR AIKEN: HIA9, coming up on the screen that's just in  
4 front of you is going to be the first page of your  
5 witness statement.

6 **A. Right.**

7 Q. I know you haven't got your reading glasses with you.  
8 So I'm going to check for you and make sure that the two  
9 statements match. If you can have a look at it and see  
10 if you can see it. If not ...

11 **A. Just about.**

12 Q. Just about.

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. I am looking at what's underneath the black marks and  
15 I can see that it's got the same content as the version  
16 that's on the screen. I'm going to move through to the  
17 last page, HIA9, which is at 008. Because you are  
18 struggling to see it, HIA9, what I am going to do is get  
19 Miss Caslan, who is here helping me, just to bring you  
20 this over and you'll be able to hold it close so that  
21 you can make sure that you've signed your statement.

22 (Handed.)

23 So if you look at the box that you can see on that  
24 page that I've given you and you can see your signature  
25 on it.



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

2 Q. And you want to adopt the content of your statement as  
3 your evidence to the Inquiry?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. HIA9, we were talking about the black marks that are on  
6 the version that's on the screen.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. If we go back to 001, please, that's the anonymity  
9 policy, and you want to keep your anonymity?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You don't want any media reporting --

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. -- your name --

14 **A. No.**

15 Q. -- or anything to do with you?

16 If you just bear with me for a moment, I said to you  
17 I'm just going to explain in the library of documents  
18 that the Inquiry has where the material relating to you  
19 can you found.

20 **A. Uh-huh.**

21 Q. So just bear with me for a moment while I do that.

22 HIA9 spoke to the -- in addition to her statement  
23 spoke to the police on 4th July 2005. I will come back  
24 to that briefly shortly. That statement is at 61994 to  
25 61945.

1 As part of her ongoing civil claim HIA9 saw Dr Bell.

2 **A. That's correct.**

3 Q. The first report that's available to the Inquiry is of  
4 21st February 2011. That runs from 70031 to 70036, and  
5 then there's a second report on 25th March 2011. That  
6 runs from SNB-70037 to 70056. Dr Bell had access to a  
7 considerable volume of medical notes and records which  
8 contain some relevant entries that I am just going to  
9 briefly refer to that you and I were talking about this  
10 morning, HIA9.

11 The Sisters of Nazareth have provided a replying  
12 statement. That can be found at 2056 to 2058. HIA9 is  
13 aware that contains an apology to her, although she has  
14 no interest in that apology.

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

16 Q. The Health & Social Care Board statement can be found at  
17 6555 and 6556. That confirms to the Inquiry that HIA9  
18 was a privately placed child when she went into  
19 St. Joseph's Babies' Home and then on to Nazareth House.  
20 We will look at that again in a moment.

21 HIA9, you were born on ?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And are now aged 59?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. And, as I have just said, you went into St. Joseph's

1 Babies' Home as a baby?

2 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

3 Q. We were discussing earlier, if we look at the register  
4 entry, please, at 4006, that when you went there, that  
5 seems to have been a private arrangement that your mum  
6 made with the nuns, because the entry which I was  
7 reading to you refers to you being admitted and on your  
8 mother's application.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I was explaining to you that's why the present day  
11 version of the Welfare Authority were saying they  
12 weren't involved in how you came to be in Nazareth  
13 House.

14 If we go back then, please, to 002. So the record  
15 shows that you went into Nazareth House after  
16 St. Joseph's Babies' Home on [REDACTED], when you  
17 were 4, and you remained there until [REDACTED]  
18 --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- when you were aged 19.

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

22 Q. You were explaining to me this morning that you went to  
23 school in Nazareth and lived in Nazareth House until you  
24 left school at 15. Then you went out to work, but  
25 continued to live in Nazareth House.

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

2 Q. You would have -- what wages you got SR31 then took as  
3 part of keeping you. Is that right?

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

5 Q. You stayed there until you were 19?

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

7 Q. In paragraph 8 of your statement -- as I was explaining  
8 to you, HIA9, what I'm going to do is -- the Panel has  
9 the opportunity to read material that relates to you  
10 already. I am just going to summarise the main points  
11 that you make, and if there's anything else you want to  
12 say, I will ask you if there's anything else you want to  
13 add, and we will work through the material in that way.

14 You've said to the Inquiry that you don't have good  
15 memories of your time in Nazareth House.

16 **A. I've no good memories at all, no.**

17 Q. You explain that you were in the -- Our Lady's group,  
18 which SR31 was in charge of.

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

20 Q. You explain in paragraph 15 of your statement at 003  
21 that she used to beat you.

22 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

23 Q. I was asking you then earlier, "For what would she have  
24 beaten you? What was the reason?", and you explained if  
25 you did anything wrong, didn't do what she told you to

1 do, then --

2 **A. She would have punished me.**

3 Q. That punishment you were explaining to me took the form  
4 of getting hit with a bunch of keys --

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

6 Q. -- or a mop.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. The mop was generally hitting you round the legs with  
9 it.

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

11 Q. But the keys were on the head.

12 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

13 Q. You explain in paragraph 15 that you since as an adult  
14 have had terrible dreams about what SR31 did to you that  
15 you remember her doing when you were in Nazareth House.

16 **A. Yes. Correct.**

17 Q. You explain in paragraph 15 that she would have made you  
18 kneel at her bedroom and you say while she was doing a  
19 night shift at the gate. Can you just explain to the  
20 Panel what a night shift at the gate was?

21 **A. Well, she would do duty at the gate. If somebody was**  
22 **coming in at night, maybe visitors coming in or the**  
23 **people living in Nazareth House, she would have to go**  
24 **out and open the gate and then lock the gate and let**  
25 **them in.**

1 Q. So was there a little gatehouse for a nun to stay in?

2 **A. Yes. They had like a wee -- they had like offices, so**  
3 **they had, a couple of wee rooms, you know.**

4 Q. You said to me it might have been people visiting the  
5 old people.

6 **A. Maybe the old people, yes, or maybe coming to visit**  
7 **maybe the girls or something like that, you know.**

8 Q. While she was doing that, you said that there would be  
9 a civilian lady called was it NHB 24 who looked  
10 after the group, and if you --

11 **A. Yes. She looked after -- NHB 24 looked after us,**  
12 **so she did, when SR31 was on the gate or, you know --**  
13 **well, when she was on the gate, she would look after us.**

14 Q. If you had done something wrong and NHB 24 told  
15 SR31, then you were going to be made kneel outside her  
16 room.

17 **A. Outside her bedroom door, yes, outside her bedroom room,**  
18 **yes.**

19 Q. If -- you explain in paragraph 16 that if NHB 24  
20 did tell on you, then SR31 would beat you, would hit you  
21 for what you had --

22 **A. For not doing what I was told.**

23 Q. -- what you'd done. You say to the Inquiry in  
24 paragraph 16 that beatings from SR31, as you describe  
25 them, did not happen every day. They were maybe every

1 week or every couple of weeks.

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

3 Q. So it wasn't that she was hitting you all the time?

4 **A. No.**

5 Q. But because she hit you, that sticks in your mind as  
6 your memory from Nazareth House?

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

8 Q. The hitting you wasn't just randomly she would pass you  
9 and just hit you for the sake of it. It was because you  
10 as far as she was concerned had not done what you were  
11 told.

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

13 Q. In paragraph 17, HIA9, you talk about an occasion  
14 whenever you got locked in the sitting room with  
15 a blackbird --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- that was in the home called Bobby.

18 **A. Bobby, yes.**

19 Q. Can you remember what you did that she -- caused her to  
20 lock you in the sitting room?

21 **A. Because I didn't do what I was told, and I remember her  
22 locking me in the sitting room before it was all done  
23 up. There was no carpet in the living room. It was all  
24 bare. We had a blackbird and it used to talk to you,  
25 and I remember her locking me in there. She shifted my**

1        **bed out of the dormitory, the room, and she locked me in**  
2        **the living room, so she -- in the living room, and**  
3        **I couldn't get up to go to the toilet. I wet the bed,**  
4        **and that was the first time I ever wet the bed.**

5    Q.    So was this --

6    A.    **And then --**

7    Q.    -- the period when you weren't in dormitories anymore  
8        but were in bedrooms?

9    A.    **Yes, they were made into cubicles.**

10   Q.    Whatever you'd done, you were made sleep in the sitting  
11        room?

12   A.    **Yes, that's correct, yes.**

13   Q.    You are explaining that you couldn't go to the toilet  
14        then. So you wet the bed.

15   A.    **Yes.**

16   Q.    What you've said to the Inquiry is that that was  
17        punishment for disobedience. You don't remember  
18        precisely what you did that led to you being punished.

19   A.    **No. Just I was so bad tempered and I couldn't control**  
20        **myself, because of what she done to me, you know.**

21   Q.    Do you remember being bad tempered and difficult to  
22        control when you were in Nazareth House?

23   A.    **Well, I can understand why I was bad tempered. People**  
24        **couldn't understand outside why I was bad tempered:**  
25        **because of what SR31 put me through.**



1 Q. You remember having that difficulty when you were in  
2 Nazareth House?

3 **A. Yes. Uh-huh.**

4 Q. You explain in paragraph 17 that it appeared to you that  
5 SR31 always picked on the same ones.

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

7 Q. So she -- you were saying to me earlier she had  
8 favourites.

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

10 Q. If you were one of the favourites, you were okay --

11 **A. You were okay.**

12 Q. -- but if you weren't one of the favourites, then you  
13 had a bad time.

14 **A. You had a bad time, yes.**

15 Q. I was asking you did you have any positive memories  
16 about SR31. Were there times that she was kind that you  
17 can remember?

18 **A. No, she was never kind to me. She hated me so much.**

19 Q. You explain in paragraph 19 of your statement, HIA9,  
20 that on one occasion you recall her getting you up at  
21 4.00 am to scrub the floor of the canteen.

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

23 Q. This was the canteen for the school?

24 **A. Yes. It was for the school, pupils from outside coming  
25 into the school in Nazareth House and the people that**

1 **lived in Nazareth House.**

2 Q. This was punishment because of something you had done?

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

4 Q. I was talking to you earlier that the present day nuns  
5 assisting the work of the Inquiry have said to the  
6 Inquiry in paragraph 10 of their replying statement,  
7 2057, the congregation does not accept that the nuns got  
8 up at 4.00 am. That's too early.

9 **A. No. This is true. They did get up at 4.00 am, so they**  
10 **did.**

11 Q. They wouldn't have punished someone in that way by  
12 getting them out of their bed to start cleaning the  
13 canteen.

14 **A. No, that's lies. That's lies.**

15 Q. That's what remember happening?

16 **A. Yes. That's all lies, yes.**

17 Q. You also mention in paragraph 20 then SR134. You  
18 remember her from your time in Nazareth House.

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

20 Q. You have explained there is really one incident that you  
21 remember with SR134, and that's when you and another  
22 girl were put into a cold bath --

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

24 Q. -- because you had spent she decided too long in the  
25 toilet. I was asking you, "Were you made get in wearing

1 your clothes?" and you said, "No". You'd take your  
2 clothes off and then had to get into the bath.

3 **A. Cold bath for her.**

4 Q. As part of that you got hit on the nose, which caused  
5 your --

6 **A. She punched me on the nose.**

7 Q. -- which caused your nose to bleed?

8 **A. Caused me a nose bleed, yes.**

9 Q. I was asking you earlier was that the only time that  
10 you'd ever trouble with SR134?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. You thought it was the only time that you'd any  
13 difficulty with her.

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

15 Q. You talk then in paragraph 21 about SR116.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. You explain to the Inquiry that there was one occasion  
18 you remember when she was looking after SR31's group,  
19 because SR31 was on retreat.

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

21 Q. And that on that occasion she frightened you by  
22 referring to the devil as "Nick".

23 **A. Nick, yes.**

24 Q. Do you want to just show the Panel? You described to me  
25 earlier how she opened the window.

1    **A. She would open the window. What she was talking -- what**  
2       **she was talking about, Nick, the devil, and we were in**  
3       **bed. We were only children at that time. She would**  
4       **open the window and say -- shout, "Nick" out the window**  
5       **and we were terrified. We were frightened. We believed**  
6       **there was a devil.**

7    Q. You explain then, HIA9, then in paragraph 24 of your  
8       statement on 005 that you were too frightened to ever  
9       tell anyone about what life was like.

10   **A. That's correct, yes.**

11   Q. I was asking you, "Why were you frightened?" and you  
12       said you were terrified of SR31.

13   **A. That's correct, yes.**

14   Q. In paragraph 18 of your statement at 004 you explain to  
15       the Inquiry that there was also bullying, older girls on  
16       the younger girls.

17   **A. That's right. The bigger girls were a lot older than**  
18       **us. They used to bully us and we were frightened of**  
19       **them, so we were.**

20   Q. And make you fight?

21   **A. Make us fight, yes.**

22   Q. I was asking you, "Where did that sort of thing happen?"  
23       and you said it was in the sitting room.

24   **A. Yes, that's correct, yes.**

25   Q. I was asking you, "Was there nobody around that saw that

1 type of thing happening?" and you said there wasn't.

2 **A. No, there wasn't, no.**

3 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement, HIA9, you talk about  
4 the clothing that you got to wear and the apron that you  
5 wore to keep your clothes clean.

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You explain to the Inquiry about how SR122, who did the  
8 sewing --

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

10 Q. -- she wasn't very happy if the apron got ripped.

11 **A. If -- we got -- they gave us clean aprons every week  
12 just to keep our clothes clean, and if you ripped your  
13 apron, she would have hit you over the head, SR122.**

14 Q. You -- that only happened to you once. Am I right in  
15 saying that, that you -- she hit you only once?

16 **A. Yes, but it's happened to other girls as well.**

17 Q. In paragraph 13 of your statement, HIA9, you talk about  
18 what a typical day was like in Nazareth, and how you had  
19 to, for instance, go to mass.

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

21 Q. The Order has said -- the congregation today has said  
22 they don't think children had to go to mass every day,  
23 that it was an option that they could go to mass.

24 During Lent, for instance, they were encouraged to go,  
25 but that they weren't made go every day. Is that your

1 memory of --

2 **A. No. My memory is SR31, she made us go to mass every**  
3 **morning, and if you didn't go to mass, she would have**  
4 **called us pagans.**

5 Q. In paragraph 19 of your statement, HIA9, you talk about  
6 the chores that you had to do in the house. You explain  
7 to the Inquiry that the -- scrubbing the floors at the  
8 weekend and you scrubbed the floors of the school area  
9 on a Friday evening.

10 **A. Yes, after school.**

11 Q. Then three times during the year you had to do like  
12 a spring clean or a bigger clean, which was Easter,  
13 summer --

14 **A. Summer and Christmas.**

15 Q. -- and Christmas.

16 **A. Uh-huh.**

17 Q. When that deep clean was going on, that included  
18 cleaning the walls on a ladder.

19 **A. We had to go up the ladders, big high ladders to do the**  
20 **spring cleaning, wash the walls. Washed all the walls**  
21 **--**

22 Q. Then I was asking --

23 **A. -- and the skirting boards. Sorry.**

24 Q. You're okay. I was asking you Monday to Friday there  
25 wasn't scrubbing going on. There was -- you had to make

1 your bed and tidy up, but that the scrubbing of the  
2 floors that you were describing on your hands and knees,  
3 that was really at the weekend?

4 **A. The weekend, yes. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. I was explaining to you that the congregation today was  
6 saying to the Inquiry that they don't accept the chores  
7 were excessive and they don't think children had to go  
8 up ladders and clean walls and that type of thing.

9 **A. It's not true.**

10 Q. But you recollect that's what you had to do?

11 **A. We had to do that, yes.**

12 Q. I am not going to bring them up, HIA9, but the material  
13 that the Inquiry has -- and you and I were discussing it  
14 earlier -- shows that you were talking to your doctor  
15 about what was happening or what you remembered of the  
16 nuns abusing you in March of 1999.

17 **A. Correct, yes.**

18 Q. That was a result of -- a friend of yours had come back  
19 from Australia.

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. You and her had been talking about your experiences and  
22 that had caused you flashbacks.

23 **A. It brought it all -- it brought it all back to me when  
24 she came back from Australia.**

25 Q. Then the Panel are aware of various other references in

1 the documents that show you explaining what happened to  
2 you. I am not going to go into those, because the Panel  
3 knows about them.

4 **A. Uh-huh.**

5 Q. You spoke to the police then in 2004 and they began an  
6 investigation into SR31 and SR116.

7 **A. Uh-huh.**

8 Q. I think it began with a friend of yours, HIA 161 .

9 **A. HIA 161 , yes. Uh-huh.**

10 Q. Then you also went to speak to the police.

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

12 Q. There were four individuals who spoke to the police in  
13 2004 and 2005, and you spoke to the police on 4th  
14 July 2005.

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

16 Q. I was saying to you earlier, if you'll allow me to say  
17 so, you were as bright as a button, because you  
18 remembered the police officer.

19 **A. Yes. David McWilliams.**

20 Q. You remember him --

21 **A. I remember him.**

22 Q. -- and it is his name which is on the statement.

23 **A. He came out to my flat to take a statement.**

24 Q. He is named as the police officer who took your  
25 statement.



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

2 Q. The Panel have your police statement, which discusses  
3 what happened.

4 The only other matter: you mention in the police  
5 statement SR31 using a cane.

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

7 Q. Was the cane mainly used in the school or was it used in  
8 the dormitory?

9 **A. It was used in the dormitory.**

10 Q. In the dormitory?

11 **A. Uh-huh.**

12 Q. I know this upset you earlier when I was explaining to  
13 you that as part of that police investigation the police  
14 then spoke to SR31 and SR116.

15 **A. That's correct.**

16 Q. I am just going to give the Panel a very brief summary  
17 of what they said and then you can explain what you  
18 think of that to the Inquiry.

19 So SR31 was interviewed, Members of the Panel, on  
20 24th October 2006. That interview runs from 61946 to  
21 61968. She accepted that if any children were referring  
22 to "SR31", that would have been a reference to her.  
23 That's at 61951 and 2. She denied -- denied all of the  
24 allegations that were made, but when she was asked about  
25 HIA9's allegations, she denied hitting her with a cane

1 or a bunch of keys. That's at 61955. She denied ever  
2 getting her up at 4.00 am to scrub floors. That's at  
3 61955. She denied making her kneel outside her room for  
4 hours. That's at 61958 in the middle. She said she  
5 didn't have a cane. She did have keys to her classroom  
6 and bedroom, but didn't hit anybody with them. When she  
7 was asked questions about punishing children, she said  
8 there could be a slap on the hand or the arm with the  
9 hand, but she says there was a stricter regime before  
10 her. That was at 61963 at the bottom of the page and  
11 61964, but that she -- their regime obviously therefore  
12 by implication wasn't as strict as what she recalled  
13 from before.

14 Now -- so SR31 was saying that she didn't accept  
15 that she had hit you in the way you were describing.  
16 You don't accept that.

17 **A. I don't accept that. They're going to say that anyway.**

18 Q. Yes. You felt they weren't telling the truth.

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

20 Q. SR116 was also interviewed on the same day, 24th  
21 October 2006, and her interview runs from 61973 to  
22 61992. I am just going to do the same thing. I am just  
23 going to summarise it, HIA9. She denied ever  
24 frightening children in the way that you suggest. That  
25 was at 61981. She said there was mass every morning for

1 the Sisters, but not the children. That's at 61983.  
2 She never saw a cane or a belt being used. That's  
3 61983. She never touched any child and never saw anyone  
4 else physically chastising children. That's at 61985.  
5 She also dealt with the issue of puberty and explained  
6 that from 11 up there were -- sex education came from  
7 manuals that they had available. That's at 61988.

8 When I mentioned that to you earlier, HIA9, you were  
9 saying that it was never explained to you the physical  
10 changes that were taking place.

11 **A. No. They never taught us the facts of life. We didn't**  
12 **know -- we didn't know nothing, because when I took my**  
13 **-- my monthly, I didn't know what was wrong with me.**  
14 **The bigger girls had to explain to me. The nuns never**  
15 **told us nothing.**

16 Q. Yes. When I explained to you SR116 didn't accept she'd  
17 ever said anything like that to do with Nick or the  
18 devil or frightening you, you don't accept that.

19 **A. No, I don't accept that at all, no.**

20 Q. You have -- the reason we have the medical reports from  
21 Dr Bell is you have a civil claim which began in 2007  
22 and it's ongoing.

23 **A. Uh-huh.**

24 Q. That's Mr McAteer you were mentioning to me.

25 **A. Yes, Ciaran McAteer, yes.**

1 Q. The last two questions, HIA9, that we ask every witness,  
2 the first one is about recommendations. At the end of  
3 the Panel's work the Panel has to consider what  
4 recommendations it might make to the Northern Ireland  
5 Government about an apology, some form of memorial or  
6 some other means of redress. We ask each witness  
7 whether there's anything they want to say to the Panel  
8 to help the Panel with its thinking about those issues.  
9 Is there anything you want to say about that to the  
10 Panel?

11 **A. Well, what SR31 put me through and SR134, I don't want**  
12 **an apology from any of the nuns. I won't accept**  
13 **an apology from them for what they put me through.**  
14 **That's all I can say.**

15 Q. The last question that we ask each witness, HIA9, is  
16 whether there's anything else about your time in  
17 Nazareth House that they want to share with the Inquiry.  
18 It's Nazareth House that we're looking at at the moment.  
19 Maybe it's something that I missed out that you want to  
20 say, or maybe it's something I didn't get quite right,  
21 but if there's anything else you want to say about your  
22 time in Nazareth House, now is your opportunity to do  
23 that.

24 **A. Well, I've no -- I've no memories of Nazareth House at**  
25 **all. It's all bad memories. That's all I can say.**

1 Q. HIA9, just bear with me for a short while. The Inquiry  
2 Panel may want to ask you something, but just bear with  
3 us for a short while.

4 Questions from THE PANEL

5 CHAIRMAN: HIA9, can I just ask you something about going to  
6 mass? Presumably there were some days in the week,  
7 particularly Sunday, where you were all taken down to  
8 chapel anyway for mass, whether you wanted to or not?

9 **A. Oh, we were forced to go to mass by the nuns.**

10 Q. Yes, but I'm trying to look at it each day at a time,  
11 but if we look at Sunday, presumably you had to go  
12 whether you wanted to or not?

13 **A. Yes.**

14 Q. But you have told us there were other days when SR31  
15 would say you were pagans if you didn't go.

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

17 Q. Does that mean that at least in theory there were some  
18 days when you had a choice whether you went to mass or  
19 not?

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

21 Q. But I take it from what you have said that she very  
22 strongly wanted you to go to mass --

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

24 Q. -- whether you wanted to or not?

25 **A. Whether you wanted or not.**

1 Q. But if -- does it follow from that that there were days  
2 when you just wouldn't go?

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. And then she would say you were a pagan?

5 **A. That's true, yes.**

6 Q. Were there other girls who wouldn't go as well on those  
7 days?

8 **A. Well, some of the girls didn't want to go at all --**

9 Q. I see.

10 **A. -- but they were forced to go.**

11 Q. In the sense that they were put under pressure to go?

12 **A. We were put under pressure to go to mass every morning.**

13 Q. And if you held out against that, you were called  
14 pagans. Is that what you're saying?

15 **A. Pagans. That's correct, yes.**

16 Q. Thank you.

17 MS DOHERTY: Thanks very much for your evidence. Can I just  
18 check? You talk in your statement about getting beaten  
19 if you didn't eat up your food.

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

21 Q. Can you say a wee bit about that, HIA9?

22 **A. Well, we used to -- every -- I remember we got cocoa at**  
23 **night, and there was times I didn't like cocoa. They**  
24 **used to make you stand up on the chair and they forced**  
25 **it down you, so they did, the cocoa. There was things**

1           that you didn't like. When you got your breakfast in  
2           the morning, the fries, it was all greasy. Fries, you  
3           couldn't eat it. It was thick with grease.

4    Q. But you were made to eat it?

5    A. We were made to eat it. Uh-huh.

6    Q. Okay. Thanks very much, HIA9.

7    MR LANE: You mentioned a social worker, NHB59.

8    A. Yes.

9    Q. You said that she -- you thought that she knew what the  
10       nuns were doing.

11   A. I remember -- I remember NHB59 coming into Nazareth  
12       House, but she had nothing to do with the children. She  
13       always talked -- come in to see the nuns, but she knew  
14       what was going on in Nazareth House.

15   Q. How would she have known if she was only talking to the  
16       nuns?

17   A. Well, I believe -- I believe there was a lot of things  
18       that knew -- people knew what was going on in Nazareth  
19       House.

20   Q. Where did she come from? Do you know?

21   A. I have no idea where she come from.

22   Q. Right, but you didn't speak to her yourself?

23   A. No, I have never spoken to her.

24   Q. Okay. Thank you.

25   CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA9, thank you very much indeed for coming

1 to speak to us today and to share your experiences with  
2 us, but I am sure you'll be glad to hear we don't have  
3 any more questions for you.

4 **A. Thank you very much, Sir Anthony.**

5 Q. Thank you for coming.

6 Now there is somebody else who is not coming, whose  
7 statement is going to be read out I think. So if you  
8 would like to go with Lorraine now, HIA9, your time here  
9 is finished. Thank you.

10 **A. Okay. Thank you very much.**

11 **(Witness withdrew)**

12 **Statement read of WITNESS HIA27**

13 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the witness  
14 HIA27, originally HIA27, who is HIA27, is not in  
15 a position to come to the Inquiry and, the Inquiry  
16 having accepted the explanation that has been provided,  
17 I am going to summarise what she has had to say.

18 She was born on 1st and is now 75.  
19 She lived in England for over fifty years. She was the  
20 youngest of three siblings and has children and  
21 grandchildren of her own.

22 If we can bring up, please, 123, the Inquiry has  
23 a statement from her, which she has signed. If we move  
24 through to 126, you can see the last page of the  
25 statement. I am looking at the signed version, which



1 are -- which is in my papers.

2 In addition, she made a statement to the police on  
3 15th November of 2011 and that can be found at 61484  
4 through to 61495. That was a best evidence interview  
5 that took place, and on ...

6 The Sisters of Nazareth replying statement can be  
7 found at 1977 to 1978. That contains an apology to  
8 HIA27 in paragraph 7 at 1978.

9 The Health & Social Care Board statement at 5745 to  
10 5746 explains to the Inquiry that it appears HIA27 was  
11 a private placement in Nazareth House. If we look at  
12 the register entry at 4021, it appears that HIA27  
13 entered along with sisters on [REDACTED], aged  
14 6. She was there until [REDACTED], aged 11,  
15 when her mother took her back out of Nazareth House.

16 She explains in paragraph 2 of her statement at 123,  
17 please, that the splitting up of her family was what  
18 resulted in her mother being unwell, her father having  
19 arranged with the parish priest for them to go into  
20 care.

21 Then in paragraph 4 she initially spent her time in  
22 the nursery, and then when she went into the main  
23 dormitory, she explains that she remembers bedwetting,  
24 where the nuns would have checked to see if anyone had  
25 wet their bed. She says she would have wet the bed

1 often, and she remembered quickly learning to cover that  
2 up and to -- in order to avoid being beaten by one of  
3 the nuns. She remembers she would have been wrapped in  
4 the wet sheet and hit all over her body. Other girls in  
5 her dormitory would have wet the bed and been punished  
6 in the same way.

7 In paragraph 6 of her statement at 124 she explains  
8 that she remembers there were two nuns who were kind and  
9 the others were not. She remembers being hit all over  
10 with a belt by the nuns.

11 "They would have hit you for lots of reasons:  
12 talking back or not doing your chores properly."

13 She remembers having to scrub the floors until, as  
14 she describes it, you could see your face on them. If  
15 she didn't scrub properly, then she would get beaten.  
16 She describes herself -- she regarded herself as being  
17 treated like slaves a lot of the time.

18 She explains in paragraph 8 that she doesn't  
19 remember having visitors while she was there and  
20 explains the context of her family circumstances, but  
21 she points out she remembers Christmas time when she  
22 considered herself lucky to get jam on her bread and  
23 an apple and an orange.

24 In paragraph 7 she describes to the Inquiry her view  
25 of the food that was made available and the general way

1 matters operated in the home.

2 She has had something to say to the Inquiry. If we  
3 just scroll down, please, to paragraph 15, she said this  
4 to the Inquiry about recommendations:

5 "I believe that the Sisters of Nazareth and the  
6 Roman Catholic Church should apologise and pay  
7 compensation to us for the childhood we suffered under  
8 their care. I also think there should be a memorial for  
9 those who were in care and died before they got a chance  
10 to come forward and tell their story."

11 Those are the matters that I intend to open to the  
12 Inquiry in respect of HIA27, and unless there's anything  
13 further that I can assist the Inquiry Panel with at this  
14 stage, that's what I propose to say.

15 CHAIRMAN: I don't think so. Thank you, Mr Aiken.

16 Can I just, however, reiterate for the benefit of  
17 everyone that although this witness' statement has been  
18 read out, because she is not able to come, the  
19 presumption is that she wishes to continue to maintain  
20 her anonymity, and therefore, despite her  
21 non-appearance, nothing must be said that could reveal  
22 her identity in any way.

23 That completes this morning's proceedings. We will  
24 now adjourn until Monday, 23rd March, which will be our  
25 next sitting week. Thank you very much.

1 (11.50 am)

2 (Hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock  
3 on Monday, 23rd March 2015)

4 --ooOoo--

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25