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HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INQUIRY  
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being heard before:

SIR ANTHONY HART (Chairman)

MR DAVID LANE

MS GERALDINE DOHERTY

held at  
Banbridge Court House  
Banbridge

on Thursday, 26th March 2015

commencing at 10.00 am

(Day 106)

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

1 Thursday, 26th March 2015

2 (10.00 am)

3 (Proceedings delayed)

4 (10.45 am)

5 WITNESS NHB136 (called)

6 CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Can I just  
7 commence, as usual, by reminding everyone to ensure that  
8 their mobile phone has been either switched off or  
9 placed on "Silent"/"Vibrate" and also to remind you that  
10 no photography or indeed recording is permitted either  
11 in the chamber or anywhere on the premises.

12 Yes, Ms Smith.

13 MS SMITH: Good morning, Chairman, Panel Members, ladies and  
14 gentlemen. Our first witness this morning is NHB136.  
15 She is NB -- sorry -- "NHB136". NHB136 wishes to take  
16 a religious oath and she also wishes to maintain her  
17 anonymity.

18 WITNESS NHB136 (sworn)

19 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, NHB136. Please sit down.

20 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

21 MS SMITH: Now, NHB136, just before I come to talk about  
22 your evidence I'm just going to let the Panel Members  
23 know that your statements can be found at SNB-6261 to  
24 6279, which includes exhibits, and also at 6882 to 6891,  
25 also including exhibits.

1 NHB136 refers to someone who has given evidence to  
2 the Inquiry in one of those statements and that's HIA5.  
3 His statement can be found at NB -- SNB-032 through to  
4 041.

5 Now, NHB136, can I just ask there is -- on the  
6 screen in front of you there is the electronic version  
7 of the statement that you -- the first statement you  
8 prepared for the Inquiry. Can we just go to the last  
9 page of that, please, at 6279? That's the exhibit page.  
10 I beg your pardon. It is 6886. Can I ask you, NHB136,  
11 to confirm that you signed the statement there on 18th  
12 March of this year?

13 **A. That is my signature, but I haven't got the bit of paper**  
14 **in front of me. That is my signature.**

15 Q. That's fine. Then the second statement -- I think that  
16 is actually the second statement. The first statement  
17 is at 6264. If we can just go to that page, please, you  
18 signed that statement --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- on 9th February 2015, and that was the first  
21 statement which commences at 6261.

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. Now, NHB136, you in your first statement indicate that  
24 you qualified as student in 1983 and you worked  
25 in childcare until 1992.

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

2 Q. We know that you were the social worker for -- I am just  
3 going to use the name "HIA5" -- HIA5.

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. You were his and his brother's social worker from -- in  
6 fact, the family social worker from December 1983 until  
7 May 1986. You were his social worker while he and his  
8 brother were in Nazareth Lodge between 1983 and 1985.

9 **A. Yes, I was, yes.**

10 Q. You were also the social worker for a girl called  
11 NL 145 --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- after she was in Nazareth Lodge, and we will come to  
14 discuss something about her in due course.

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. But when you qualified, you were indicating that you had  
17 concerns about children being placed in Nazareth Lodge  
18 right from the early days of your qualification. Is  
19 that correct, NHB136?

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

21 Q. When we were talking earlier, you were saying that was  
22 because of something that you had heard from a girl who  
23 had spoken to you and to your co-students when you were  
24 a student at Queen's about her experiences in Nazareth  
25 Lodge.

1 A. Yes. One of the lecturers had brought this girl in to  
2 talk to us and it made a lasting impact on me. My  
3 memory is not good of a lot of things, but this was very  
4 good. I --

5 I was really very disappointed, because I know how good  
6 and caring nuns could be. So I decided that this was  
7 not acceptable. It was -- it was -- I would not be able  
8 to place children in that home until I was sure that  
9 that discipline did not exist -- or lack of discipline,  
10 whatever.

11 Q. You were saying that shortly after you commenced work as  
12 a social worker you were required to place --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- a child or children in Nazareth Lodge and you took  
15 action.

16 A. Yes. I can't remember the case, but I think it was  
17 another social worker's case. I was only qualified  
18 a few months or maybe even a few weeks, and I decided  
19 I could not do this, and one of my managers said, "Look,  
20 the best way to do is to go up to Nazareth Lodge and  
21 confront", and being very familiar with nuns, I decided  
22 to do that, and I did, and I think it was a SR2 I met  
23 and confronted the issue with her, who assured me in  
24 anyway -- I think this is correct from then rather than  
25 what I have learned since -- that SR 62 was the nun who

1 had been allegedly responsible for various abuses and  
2 that she had now been moved to England or to another  
3 convent somewhere and that currently that regime did not  
4 exist in Nazareth Lodge. So I then placed children  
5 there after that.

6 Q. Certainly the two boys that you were part of your case  
7 load --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- your own case load --

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. -- were actually in Nazareth Lodge when you took over --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- their care.

14 A. Yes, yes, yes.

15 Q. Now you record -- what you have said in your statement  
16 is that because of this experience with the girl who  
17 spoke to you while you were a student, you were alert to  
18 --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- any possibility of abuse in residential care, and as  
21 a result you were particularly vigilant to visit these  
22 children regularly.

23 A. Yes. Well, I think I would have visited the children  
24 anyway, because I was -- they were going home a lot and  
25 I was driving them backwards and forwards, but also the

1        **little things were upset. They were only -- you know,**  
2        **they were upset because they were away from their home.**  
3        **So obviously I spent quite a lot of time in Nazareth**  
4        **with them.**

5    Q. You exhibit here -- you recorded your visits in a work  
6        diary, which you still have, in 1984. You just give  
7        an example here, if we could look at 6269 to 6272 -- you  
8        record here -- it has been put in tabular form from your  
9        diary --

10   **A. Yes.**

11   Q. -- just about the visits that you had with these  
12        children.

13   **A. Yes.**

14   Q. You are saying that you noticed that one of the boys was  
15        upset as you left, and they were coming home for  
16        Christmas. That was in December '83, which was just  
17        when you became involved with this family. Isn't that  
18        correct?

19   **A. I think that's correct. Yes, that is, yes.**

20   Q. I am just going to scroll down through this. I don't  
21        need to read it out, but you talk here in January about  
22        a Nazareth visit and two boys needing cuddles. Then  
23        after playing for one hour didn't want you to leave.  
24        They asked for extra weekend and there was a promise to  
25        consideration -- discussion about that. There was

1 a home visit cancelled, because one boy had the measles.  
2 You had an appointment with the school about one of the  
3 boys. You have positive time spent with him. He was  
4 very friendly. You visited the boys. They were out  
5 playing, boisterous good fun. Boys were well. They  
6 went out to the park. The note of the nun there, SR2.  
7 I presume she was telling you that all was well after  
8 their weekend home visit.

9 **A. Yes, yes.**

10 Q. You took the boys out in March '84. Again you spent  
11 time with them, but you didn't take them out, and you  
12 gave them sweets and they were pleased. All seemed  
13 well. Again contact with their school. If we just  
14 scroll on down to the next page, please, again telephone  
15 call asking you to attend one boy's medical at his  
16 school.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. You spoke to SR2 before taking the boys home. Telephone  
19 calls. There is quite a lot of contact both with SR2  
20 with regard to the children and your visits to them and  
21 certainly in some months it was more than the monthly  
22 required visit that you were having.

23 **A. Sorry. I will clarify. Monthly required was because of**  
24 **the fostering arrangement. In terms of these cases**  
25 **I could be out every day. It wasn't -- it was just to**



1 protect the children. The other one was a standard  
2 visit of a month. I mean, obviously you went more often  
3 if it was -- that was part of the fostering process.

4 Q. So correct me if I've got this wrong, NHB136. What  
5 you're saying is then when a child was in residential  
6 care, you had to drop everything and go if you got  
7 a phone call from the home. Is that what you are saying  
8 or --

9 A. Yes, but also these children were coming home quite  
10 a lot and I suppose part of the thinking was, "Could we  
11 get them home all the time? Could we get them back?"  
12 They were loved, but the home wasn't a good enough  
13 environment for them to be in. I would have been up  
14 quite frequently. You can see the dates. I would have  
15 visited the home or any place but I would have visited  
16 quite regularly. It wouldn't have been once a month for  
17 children in care like that, particularly young children.

18 Q. Very well.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I wanted to know when -- you had had this reassurance  
21 from SR2 --

22 A. SR2.

23 Q. -- you believe about Nazareth Lodge. I just wondered  
24 what your impressions were of the home whenever you were  
25 visiting as frequently as this?

1     **A.** I think I was very happy with it. You know,  
2           unfortunately my memory is not good, but I think SR2 was  
3           very good, very caring. I spent a lot of time with her.  
4           I mean, there's different ways of interpreting, but  
5           I had no sense -- I wouldn't have left the children  
6           there or -- and I placed other children after that and,  
7           believe me, social workers don't place children very  
8           easily. It hurts to take a child from its home, you  
9           know, each if the environment is very poor, but -- so  
10          I have no feelings -- I wish my memory was better, but  
11          I have no sense of anxiety about the home, and I'm  
12          pretty certain, knowing how I practise, that if I had,  
13          I would have done something or recorded it.

14     **Q.** There was certainly nothing during your visits that led  
15          you to suspect that HIA5 and his brother were unhappy in  
16          Nazareth Lodge?

17     **A.** No, no.

18     **Q.** The boys never certainly complained to you. As you've  
19          said, you would have done something --

20     **A.** Yes.

21     **Q.** -- if they had.

22     **A.** Yes.

23     **Q.** You never witnessed any evidence of ill-treatment. You  
24          were ferrying these children back and forward from their  
25          home to Nazareth Lodge and taking them to medical

1 appointments --

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. -- and things, and there was no suggestion of evidence  
4 of physical ill-treatment, for example, there?

5 **A. No, and also I had a particular relationship with the**  
6 **school, because in a voluntary capacity I was on the**  
7 **Board of Governors of the school. So I had access, easy**  
8 **access, and the principal would have told me if he had**  
9 **any concern. Yet when I look at my notes, you know,**  
10 **these notes, because obviously my memory is not good,**  
11 **all of the reports from the school are positive.**  
12 **There's no suggestion -- they would have told me if they**  
13 **had been concerned.**

14 Q. One of the things that I was asking you is you have  
15 mentioned SR2 throughout your notes.

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. Do you ever remember meeting any of the other staff? We  
18 have heard that during HIA5's time there he mentioned  
19 a SR46 --

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. -- a SR45 or a SR29.

22 **A. I think he must have done, but I really wish this was**  
23 **not thirty years ago. I can't remember. I remember**  
24 **talking to lay staff. I was up there quite a bit, but**  
25 **I really can't answer that properly.**

1 Q. You can't remember the names of the people you did speak  
2 to?

3 **A. Yes, I can't, yes, yes.**

4 Q. One of the things I was wondering was when you did visit  
5 the boys in Nazareth Lodge, not to take them home but to  
6 just visit them in the lodge, where did those visits  
7 take place? Can you recall?

8 **A. I can't remember it very clearly, but it was where they  
9 all took place, but I can remember it must have been  
10 like -- I remember it being with lay staff as well.**

11 **I remember being informal, other children about. You  
12 know, I don't have a sense of it being you only went to  
13 that room and you were watched, nothing like that. It  
14 was relaxed, but I honestly can't remember the details.**

15 Q. I was wondering too what access you had to the home.  
16 I mean, had you seen where the boys slept, for example,  
17 or --

18 **A. No, I have no memory, and really that's maybe a weakness  
19 in the fact that I don't seem to have -- it might have  
20 been a weakness that I didn't actually go to see where  
21 they sleep. Also I have no memory of being upstairs in  
22 the bedroom or anything unfortunately.**

23 Q. One of the things that you have recorded here, you said  
24 that SR2 wished to discuss one boy's behaviour --

25 **A. Yes, yes.**

1 Q. -- when he was asked to go for a bath and he started  
2 screaming "Bitch".

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. She considered he was very disturbed and felt if he  
5 behaved like this at home, his father might snap. You  
6 agreed to monitor the situation. Now you have in your  
7 statement referred to this entry and said that, having  
8 read what HIA5 said about his time there --

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. -- he relates a particular incident about a bathroom --

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. -- that you wondered if the two were related. I was --  
13 when we were speaking earlier, I informed that you the  
14 congregation have said that they absolutely dispute this  
15 incident happened --

16 **A. Yes.**

17 Q. -- as related by HIA5, and said that the bathroom was on  
18 the fourth floor of Nazareth Lodge. Did you know the  
19 bathroom was on the fourth floor of Nazareth Lodge?

20 **A. No, I don't think so. I can't answer that properly, but**  
21 **I don't think so. I mean, maybe -- maybe that was too**  
22 **much of a statement that I made to say -- it was just it**  
23 **was very unusual that a child should use the same word**  
24 **as other children have used in relation to the bath.**  
25 **That's all, but I have no evidence of that.**

1 Q. Well, I just -- we were talking generally about what it  
2 was like to be a social worker in Belfast in 1983/1985,  
3 and you were giving some accounts of some of the  
4 experiences that you had when you were going into  
5 certain areas, for example, the first time that you went  
6 to visit a family.

7 A. Yes. Well, you know, you've just graduated and you're  
8 all proud of your new job and you have got your car.  
9 I was driving up the and two men came out  
10 and stood in front of car, hands up. One got in beside  
11 me and told me that I had been vetted and I was all  
12 right.

13 That was only the beginning of really quite  
14 frightening experiences, especially when you were called  
15 out late at night and you had to go into high rise  
16 flats. It was difficult, and it was very difficult for  
17 the people living there as well, because quite often I  
18 have been -- it has been said to me, "Why didn't they  
19 call the police?" They would have been too scared to  
20 call the police, not so much of -- well, maybe the  
21 police too, but also of it being seen that they had the  
22 police in their house, because other people would have  
23 appeared, threatening them and asking them questions.

24 Q. I think it's important that that context of what was  
25 happening --

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. -- in the wider society of Northern Ireland --

3 **A. Yes.**

4 Q. -- is remembered.

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. You certainly had experienced difficulties trying to  
7 carry out your work.

8 **A. Yes, so much so that some of my clients actually tried**  
9 **to protect me. "You see those boys down there? Go.**  
10 **Please go, because we know who they are."**

11 Q. Well, just coming back to the case of HIA5, his social  
12 work papers can be found at 40001 to 40105 and 42892 to  
13 42992.

14 There is a report at SNB-5865, which is dated 19th  
15 June 1984, which is a report -- the first report maybe  
16 that you prepared on him for a case review. There was  
17 an addendum prepared by yourself on 4th September '84 at  
18 40080. Again then in -- at 40083 a report of  
19 December 1984, which again was for a case review, and  
20 there's a report -- final report that you prepared on  
21 the family in December of 1985, because at that stage  
22 the family were rehoused and they were being transferred  
23 to a different area, and that was being prepared for  
24 Social Services --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- that report by you. Now I'm not going to open those  
2 reports up, NHB136, but when HIA5 gave evidence to the  
3 Inquiry, he was unhappy with some of the entries in the  
4 social work papers. He said they simply didn't accord  
5 with his memories or what his parents had said to him.  
6 For example, the social work records that his parents  
7 visited regularly for a while and he said that didn't  
8 happen. He had memory of an aunt visiting, but not his  
9 parents.

10 I just wanted to ask: the social work records were  
11 being kept like this diary that you were keeping. Those  
12 were being fed into the history sheets and into the  
13 social work record -- isn't that correct -- all those  
14 events?

15 **A. Actually the notes I would put in my diary. Then when**  
16 **I had time, which was usually at home, I wrote those**  
17 **into files, handwritten files. We didn't type. We had**  
18 **no computers or anything. So it was the files. I think**  
19 **they must be shredded. They would have given much**  
20 **greater detail than what I have pulled out of diaries,**  
21 **because those were only notes for myself to go --**

22 Q. To prompt you --

23 **A. Yes.**

24 Q. -- whenever you came to --

25 **A. Yes.**



1 Q. -- write up the report of the visit?

2 **A. Yes, yes, yes.**

3 Q. But those --

4 **A. Sorry. You asked ...?**

5 Q. I just wanted to check that essentially those files were  
6 kept contemporaneously?

7 **A. I don't -- I actually don't know. I mean, they were**  
8 **obviously secure when I was work, but I don't know what**  
9 **happened to the files afterwards.**

10 Q. You were writing up -- just shortly you'd had the visit  
11 you were writing up that visit.

12 **A. Well, should have been, yes. Should have been.**

13 Q. Okay.

14 **A. Right.**

15 Q. But certainly it wasn't that they were being revised  
16 years later or anything like that?

17 **A. Oh, sorry. I see what you mean. Of course they were.**  
18 **They were written up, yes, when your memory was fresh.**  
19 **They had to be. They had to be written. Sorry.**

20 Q. That's okay. You in the first statement that you  
21 provided to the Inquiry at paragraphs 5 to 13 you  
22 address HIA5's statement and, as we have indicated, in  
23 paragraph 9 here you talked about this incident on  
24 the -- with regard to the bathroom incident.

25 One person who you were also a social worker for was

1 a girl called NL 145 . You became her social worker  
2 in October 1983. You were her social worker until April  
3 1987. Now whenever you were looking after her, she was  
4 in foster care at that time, and her social work papers  
5 have been provided to the Inquiry. They can be found at  
6 SNB-42827 through to 42891.

7 I am going to -- NL 145 is not someone who has  
8 spoken to the Inquiry. So I am just going to set  
9 a little bit of the background of her time and her life.  
10 Essentially her mother -- her parents, who were married  
11 -- her mother had mental health problems throughout her  
12 life with NL 145 . Her father was much older than her  
13 mother. He was elderly, and NL 145 had been in care  
14 since she was a baby. She was in St. Joseph's Babies'  
15 Home and then was transferred over to Nazareth Lodge.  
16 Her father particularly was very attentive to her and  
17 visited her throughout her life, but as her parents were  
18 unlikely to be able to care for her full-time, she was  
19 taken into care in May 1975. We can see that in  
20 a report provided by a colleague, a , at  
21 SNB-48586.

22 Her social work papers record regular visits by her  
23 father, record her going home at weekends and for  
24 holidays. At one point in time her father takes her  
25 home to live permanently, but is essentially unable to

1 cope and has to put her back into Nazareth Lodge, but  
2 continues to visit her until sadly he is taken into  
3 hospital, and we see that at SNB-48606. Her mother  
4 simply couldn't cope and home visits were suspended.  
5 Then at SNB-48609 her father dies in July 1987 and her  
6 mother is admitted as an in-patient to Purdysburn and  
7 she dies not long afterwards.

8 After her parents' death two members of the Legion  
9 of Mary visit NL 145 in Nazareth Lodge and  
10 essentially take her under their wing, take her home for  
11 visits to them.

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. They eventually foster her long-term from 1982. Now  
14 this is clearly despite the fact that Social Services  
15 would have preferred NL 145 to go to a family  
16 environment --

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. -- by way of foster care, but she refused to consider  
19 anyone other than these sisters as foster parents, and  
20 eventually that's where she goes to live, and that's  
21 where she's living when you become involved with her.

22 **A. Yes, yes.**

23 Q. Now you then build a relationship with her and  
24 eventually she makes certain disclosures to you --

25 **A. Yes.**

1 Q. -- about her time, and you make a report on that. We  
2 can see that at SNB-31507. If we could pull that up,  
3 please, it's a two-page report, and this report is from  
4 19th November 1985. You say -- I am just going read it  
5 out, NHB136:

6 "I have been visiting **NL 145** at least monthly  
7 since 4th October 1983 and during this time I've  
8 discussed her years in Nazareth Lodge on several  
9 occasions and for two 2 main reasons:-

10 (a) On my initial visit I was concerned about her  
11 unresponsive, negative attitude. In an effort to  
12 establish a more positive response, I spoke to her of an  
13 18-year-old whom I had met while I was a student at  
14 Queen's. When I tentatively said that this girl had  
15 indicated that discipline had been strict, **NL 145**  
16 became animated, named the girl (I've forgotten the  
17 name) and said they had both been in **SR 62**'s unit and  
18 that she too had experienced similar forms of  
19 discipline, as did some boys she named. In no sense was  
20 **NL 145** distressed; rather she seemed happy to be able  
21 to communicate about something.

22 (b) However, I noted her comments and decided to  
23 return to the subject when I had developed a better  
24 relationship. On doing this and having made contact  
25 with **NL 145** feelings, she became very distressed

1 and cried uncontrollably. This scene is repeated every  
2 time I focus on this area of concern. On two occasions  
3 I have discussed the topic with NL 145 while alone  
4 with either -- while alone with either NL 217  
5 NL 217. Both have become concerned and surprised, as  
6 they knew NL 145 during the relevant years and were  
7 not aware of anything. NL 145 insists she did try to  
8 tell them and her social worker, but no-one seemed to  
9 take her seriously. She believed no-one would listen to  
10 her, as SR 62 appeared so pleasant and interested in  
11 NL 145 welfare when social worker and NL 217  
12 visited. There was a sense too that this punishment was  
13 acceptable to all adults concerned.

14 As NL 145 is now 18 years old and will not return  
15 to Nazareth Lodge and SR 62 is elderly and no longer  
16 working with children, I focused on the essence rather  
17 than the detail of the events NL 145 relayed.  
18 Apparently" -- this is about SR 62 -- "she resides in  
19 the main convent, sometimes opening the main door.

20 NL 145 was happy in St. Joseph's until she moved  
21 to Nazareth Lodge when she was 7 years old. She went to  
22 live with foster parents when she was 14 years, and her  
23 father died in 1979, when she was nearly 12, and it  
24 would appear that life in Nazareth Lodge was unpleasant  
25 from this time. She has spoken of being made to lie on

1 a bed while she was beaten with part of a shower unit by  
2 **SR 62**. Another girl received similar punishment. She  
3 has also spoken of a member of staff in the same unit  
4 who made the young people, boys and girls, roll up their  
5 trouser legs while she beat them with a stick across  
6 their legs.

7 She considers the physical punishment she received  
8 was minor compared with that experienced by two brothers  
9 and a .

10 I am concerned that this young girl should have had  
11 such an adverse experience and that she has been  
12 deprived of the excellent standard of care currently  
13 practised in SR2's unit."

14 You signed that and it is dated 19th November 1985.

15 Now we know from the records that you then passed  
16 that on on the same date to your senior social worker,  
17 who was **NL 218** .

18 We can just have a quick look at his memo to the  
19 principal social worker, which can be found at  
20 SNB-48703. If we could just highlight that. As you  
21 see, it is from your senior social worker, dated the  
22 same date. It is:

23 "Re **NL 145** :

24 Please find attached a report on the above-named.  
25 I apologise for my delay in forwarding this to you."

1               There's a further -- on the preceding page, if we  
2               can go to 48702, we can see a copy of the memo which the  
3               principal social worker then sent to the Assistant  
4               Director of Social Services, Mr Robert Bunting, on 26th  
5               November, and said:

6               "Please find enclosed a report forwarded to me on  
7               behalf of the girl who was resident in Nazareth Lodge  
8               several years ago. As you will see, NL 145 is making  
9               a complaint about the harshness of the regime which  
10              prevailed at that time. She too is talking in terms of  
11              physical punishment that she received, but notes that  
12              the boys' life could be much harsher. You will remember  
13              that I carried out a limited investigation at the  
14              Department's request, the results of which I forwarded  
15              to yourself. At the time I realised -- I remained  
16              unconvinced about the denials that I was receiving from  
17              ex-staff in Nazareth. This complaint only heightens  
18              that lack of confidence."

19              There seems to have been a post-it note or a note  
20              attached to that:

21              "Social worker's report re allegations for limited  
22              investigation referred to the -- referred" -- I can't  
23              make that -- "referred to in file by hand. See files of  
24                               and NL97."

25              Now the Inquiry knows that the matter was elevated

1 even from there, but I wanted to ask you, NHB136, why  
2 did you feel it appropriate to make the report, first of  
3 all, to your senior social worker about someone who was  
4 now 18 years of age?

5 A. Because I was totally committed to the care of children  
6 and I just wanted to highlight the fact that this -- we  
7 should be vigilant. We should be watching what sort of  
8 care all children are, regardless of which unit they are  
9 placed in. So it was my concern that a child,  
10 regardless of just NL 145 , any child that's taken  
11 from a home -- and it is usually a home where they have  
12 not had the best care, loving care -- is placed into  
13 what you think is a safe environment and it may not be  
14 that safe.

15 Q. You felt it was important to highlight that to your  
16 superiors?

17 A. Yes, and I was -- I think I have just been criticised  
18 that I -- in some of the reports that I only referred to  
19 the essence of the abuse, because really at that stage  
20 I was not thinking of litigation or anything like that.  
21 I was just talking about, "We must look into this. We  
22 must see that the care is good".

23 Q. Well, did you know -- after you made that initial report  
24 do you know what happened after that?

25 A. No, no. Sorry. I should say I have no memory of what



1       **happened after that.**

2       Q.   Very well.  I'm just going look at another couple of  
3       documents here.  If we look at 48715, please, this is  
4       dated later.  Your report went up in 1985.  Could we  
5       just rotate that, please, so it can be read?  This is  
6       dated February of 1987.  It is unclear.  It might be  
7       10th.  It might be 18th.  It is hard to make out.  This  
8       is from Principal Social Worker **NL 219** to yourself.

9       **A.  Yes.**

10      Q.   My understanding is that   **NL 219**  took over from  
11                as the principal social worker in the Eastern  
12      Health & Social Services Board at that time.  He says:  
13                "With regard to allegations of ill-treatment in  
14      Nazareth Lodge made by former residents, I would be  
15      grateful if you can now assist the above" -- that's  
16      **NL 145**  -- "the above-named in making contact with the  
17      RUC to make her complaint.  Please advise me if and when  
18      this has been done."

19               Then if we look at the next page, please, which is  
20      48715, this is a memo from yourself -- sorry.  16.  
21      I beg your pardon.  This is a memo from yourself to **NL 219**  
22      **NL 219** .

23      **A.  Yes.**

24      Q.   It is dated 18th May 1987, so about three months later.  
25      You then record here:

1 "Since last correspondence little progress has been  
2 made. When last in contact, **NL 145** wanted to press  
3 charges. She did go to a local police station in  
4 , but had no satisfaction, as they wanted some  
5 instruction from the RUC to take her statement.

6 **NL 145** came back to Belfast from 17th to 27th  
7 February. During this time she attempted to make  
8 a statement in Antrim Road Police Station. They asked  
9 her to call at the police station covering the Nazareth  
10 Lodge area. I enquired to learn that this was  
11 Willowfield RUC, and was attempting to make a joint  
12 appointment when **NL 145** phoned in a very distressed  
13 state from the airport as she was returning to  
14 under duress."

15 Then **NL 145** leaves. She phones up almost daily  
16 at first. You just recount the contact that you had  
17 with her while she was in . Then in the next  
18 paragraph:

19 "In the meantime after much discussion I received  
20 the permission of Inspector Hamilton, Willowfield RUC,  
21 to use his name if **NL 145** should make contact with  
22 a police station in England. Interestingly, his main  
23 concern was that he or the police were not seen to be  
24 bringing charges against Nazareth Lodge, as he had great  
25 respect for nuns and the work done there."

1           If we look then at 48719, this is a memo of  
2           a telephone conversation from someone called           to  
3           you on 7th June 1989:

4           "Telephoned NHB136 with reference to Mr Bunting's  
5           memo of 31st May 1989."

6           I am not going to call up that memo, but simply he  
7           is asking for an update: "Did these children ever report  
8           their complaint to the police?" It says:

9           "    **NL 145**    file was closed in  
10          August/September 1987 with a view to opening if she  
11          contacted Social Services again.    **NL 145**    made contact  
12          with NHB136 around the middle of May 1989. She is now  
13          married, living in                    and has a baby."

14          It gives her name.

15          "She intends to press charges and has been in  
16          contact with a solicitor in                    to assist her.  
17          NHB136 thinks that    **NL 145**    will go ahead and press  
18          charges and will be looking for compensation. The case  
19          has, however, been passed through    **NL 218**    to  
20          **NL 220**    to put details to date in writing."

21          Certainly if we look at 28720, this is a letter that  
22          is sent by the Assistant Director of Social Services,  
23          Mr Black, to Mr Bunting, updating him on these  
24          enquiries.

25          There is also a post-it or a memo there, which says:

1           " NL 220 has spoken to NHB136 re reference to  
2 claims in the solicitor's letter. She was very evasive  
3 with regard to claims. No way gave them any grounds  
4 that a claim should or would be paid. NHB136 discussed  
5 claim with NL 145 , but not in a positive way."

6           When we were looking at the solicitor's letter that  
7 NL 145 had sent, that letter is simply saying, "Did  
8 you advise her that she would have a good claim?" This  
9 is your response to -- you may have had some discussion  
10 with her, but you didn't say anything --

11 **A. No.**

12 Q. -- about having a good claim.

13 **A. I don't think so. I think my focus was much more on the**  
14 **care rather than -- I don't remember, but I know how**  
15 **I feel. It would have been much more about care rather**  
16 **than financial rewards, you know. I don't particularly**  
17 **like that statement there I was evasive about whatever.**  
18 **I don't think I would have worded it like that. I would**  
19 **have probably stressed I was much more interested --**  
20 **more concerned about the care in the home than her**  
21 **getting financial rewards.**

22 Q. Well, can I just ask you, NHB136, you have told us  
23 a little bit about what you remember about Nazareth  
24 Lodge and the care that was afforded to the children  
25 that you had there. Did you have any contact with any

1 other residential children's homes that you remember  
2 during your time as a social worker?

3 **A. I can't remember. There was St. Joseph's, but I don't**  
4 **remember being -- I could have been in it. I really**  
5 **can't remember. This is thirty years ago. It's hard**  
6 **for this old brain.**

7 Q. I appreciate that, NHB136. If you can't remember, don't  
8 worry about it.

9 **A. Yes.**

10 Q. I just wondered if you did remember.

11 **A. Yes, yes. I can't. I can't think of them anyway.**

12 Q. Thank you very much, NHB136. I have no further  
13 questions that I want to ask you, but the Panel Members  
14 may have something that they want some clarification on.

15 Questions from THE PANEL

16 MR LANE: Thank you for your evidence. You spoke about the  
17 need to be always vigilant and for social workers to be  
18 watching to see what they could tell. Do you think from  
19 your relationship with HIA5 and HIA 458 that they would  
20 have trusted you enough to speak about things?

21 **A. That's what I feel. I just hope I'm right in that, you**  
22 **know. I have -- my own sons weren't a lot older than**  
23 **them, you know. So I had that added advantage of being**  
24 **a mother and caring. Sometimes they'd say they didn't**  
25 **want me to leave the home in notes and things like that.**

1           Unfortunately it is so long ago I can't even remember  
2           what the wee boys looked like now, but, you know -- and  
3           also because I took them for medicals, and the doctors  
4           didn't report anything either. You know, a doctor would  
5           have pointed out to me, "Look, did you see this bruise?"  
6           or whatever and didn't. I just wish these things took  
7           place a lot earlier. You know, the years are the gap,  
8           but I would have felt they would have told me. I was  
9           taking them home. I was seeing them a lot in the home  
10          and seeing them a lot in their own home and driving them  
11          backwards and forwards. So I think if they had been  
12          very unhappy that particular day -- I might be wrong in  
13          this -- but I've a sense, because other children told me  
14          things that were happening in their homes, etc, that  
15          they would have said.

16   Q.   So it is reasonable to expect --

17   A.   I think that, yes.

18   Q.   -- that children should confide in social workers?

19   A.   I think -- well, not necessarily, but I think my  
20          relationship with them, because I was older, I was more  
21          maternal maybe, that they would have done. I can  
22          remember them cuddling into me, things like that. So  
23          I think they would have trusted me to say.

24   Q.   Okay.

25   A.   But the bit that -- because of my role in the school,

1 you know, being on and I eventually was of that  
2 Board of Governors, I had easy access with the  
3 principal. I think they would have told me if a child  
4 had come to school with a bruise or something. That's  
5 not recorded. I have no knowledge of that. Okay?

6 Q. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN: Well, NHB136, thank you for coming to tell us  
8 about these matters today. Perhaps I should reassure  
9 you that we have all -- we have read and can look at  
10 again these voluminous documents on which you have been  
11 asked to touch occasionally. So we know there is  
12 a great deal of detail there, but thank you for coming  
13 to speak to us this morning.

14 A. Thank you.

15 (Witness withdrew)

16 MS SMITH: Chairman, the next witness is to be taken by  
17 Mr Aiken, but if we take a very short break, hopefully  
18 we will be ready.

19 CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll rise just for a few minutes.

20 (11.20 am)

21 (Short break)

22 (11.40 am)

23 WITNESS HIA316 (called)

24 CHAIRMAN: Mr Aiken.

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

1 The next witness this morning is HIA316, who was  
2 formerly HIA316, who is "HIA316". She is aware,  
3 Chairman, you are going to ask her to take the oath.

4 WITNESS HIA316 (sworn)

5 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, HIA316. Please sit down.

6 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

7 MR AIKEN: HIA316, coming up on the screen should be the  
8 first page of your witness statement. I just want you  
9 to look at it and look at the hard copy you have with  
10 you, see what's under the black marks and confirm that  
11 that is the same first page.

12 **A. Yes. That's the same first page.**

13 Q. If we move through to 834, please, and will you just  
14 check that's the same last page, and if you look at the  
15 hard copy you have and just confirm that you have, in  
16 fact, signed your witness statement?

17 **A. Yes, I have.**

18 Q. You want to adopt the content of your witness statement  
19 as your evidence to the Inquiry?

20 **A. I do.**

21 Q. As you know, we were talking about the black marks being  
22 part of the Inquiry's anonymity policy, and you want to  
23 keep your anonymity?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. If you just bear with me for a moment, HIA316, while



1 I give the Panel some references in the bundle to  
2 material that relates to you.

3 In addition to HIA316's witness statement there is  
4 the replying statement from the Sisters of Nazareth,  
5 which can be found at 2142 to 2144. HIA316 is aware  
6 that paragraph 19 of that statement contains a personal  
7 apology to her for any occasion whenever the treatment  
8 she received from nuns fell beneath the reasonable  
9 standard that might have been expected. HIA316 found  
10 that helpful this morning.

11 The Health & Social Care Board statement can be  
12 found at 6259 through to 6260. That statement confirms  
13 that as far as the Health & Social Care Board can tell  
14 there was no Welfare Authority involvement in HIA316's  
15 care. From her own statement it appears that this was  
16 a private arrangement that her mother made with the  
17 nuns.

18 There then is two further matters that I'm going to  
19 draw to the Panel's attention. In paragraph 8 of  
20 HIA316's statement she mentions a particular priest that  
21 she recalls from her childhood, and the Inquiry has  
22 received a replying statement from him. He is NHB84.  
23 His witness statement can be found at 80075 to 80078.  
24 We will look at what he's had to say about the specific  
25 matter that HIA316 raises in due course.

1           In addition, HIA316 through her evidence talks about  
2           the treatment she received at the hands of SR116, who  
3           was SR116. SR116, the entry in the register that  
4           records her history can be found at 10274.

5           While HIA316 never spoke of her abuse to the police,  
6           there are a number of interviews that have taken place  
7           in respect of SR116 and allegations, some similar in the  
8           context of bedwetting to that which HIA316 will describe  
9           to you.

10           There is between 2010 and 2012 police investigation  
11           that related to twelve individuals and that prompted a  
12           100-page interview with SR116 in 2012. That runs from  
13           61295 through to 61400. The police conclusion about the  
14           similar evidence can -- at the end of that investigation  
15           can be found at 61904 and 5.

16           There is other relevant material of a similar type.  
17           I may have to open that to the Panel in due course to  
18           provide the composite picture.

19           That having been said, HIA316, you have travelled  
20           from England today --

21           **A. I have.**

22           Q. -- where you've spent most of your adult life.

23           **A. Yes.**

24           Q. You were born on .

25           **A. Yes.**

1 Q. Now aged 63.

2 A. Yes.

3

5 Q. You have -- and you describe this towards the end of  
6 your witness statement -- two children of your own, four  
7 step-children and then you said --

8 A. Twelve.

9 Q. -- in the statement lots of grandchildren. You  
10 confirmed for me today that, including  
11 step-grandchildren, is twelve grandchildren.

12 A. Twelve, yes.

13 Q. You were in Nazareth Lodge from [REDACTED] --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- aged 2. You remained there until [REDACTED]

16

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. I think you said at the start of your statement you  
19 didn't recollect necessarily going in as early as the  
20 records suggest --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- but it appears, if we look at the register entry at  
23 4544, please, this confirms that HIA316 -- and you can  
24 see -- I was discussing this with you earlier -- that  
25 the record suggests that you move into Nazareth House in

1 March 1953 and the recommendation comes from Nazareth  
2 Lodge. I was saying to you that at that point in time  
3 the babies' home was connected to Nazareth Lodge, and it  
4 was at this point in time, 1953, that a new babies' home  
5 part was opening. So it may be that at some point you  
6 moved across from that babies' home into Nazareth House.

7 You describe in paragraph 6 of your statement, if we  
8 look, please, at 829, your recollection is that SR116  
9 was the nun in charge of your group.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. You explain how, in paragraph 6, she used to shout at  
12 you that your mother didn't want you. It stuck with  
13 you.

14 **A. No. They -- I was left with the nuns. They were stuck  
15 with me. Sorry. Yes.**

16 Q. Yes. They used to shout at you that your mother didn't  
17 want you and that stuck with you and they didn't want  
18 you either.

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. You remember the swish of the bamboo cane as it went  
21 through the air. You say that SR116 would lose control  
22 and hit you on the head and the hands. When I was  
23 speaking to you earlier, you said it wasn't just the  
24 cane that she used. You had a memory of another  
25 implement. What was that?

1 **A. It was a leather strap cut into strips.**

2 Q. Was that something that was used less often than the  
3 cane?

4 **A. I think the cane probably more.**

5 Q. The cane was used more?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. You remember how you were hit on the knuckles --

8 **A. With the cane.**

9 Q. -- with the cane. Your knuckles used to be black and  
10 blue. I was asking you was your experience with SR116  
11 that it would be just a loss of temper at times that  
12 resulted in you getting more severely hit or was that  
13 just the way it was?

14 **A. Probably now and again she'd lose her temper, not all  
15 the time.**

16 Q. You describe in paragraphs 5 and 7 the particular  
17 problems associated with bedwetting. You explain how  
18 you were one of the girls who wet the bed, and you  
19 describe how you had to take your sheets and wash them  
20 in the bath. I was saying to you that the nuns have  
21 said to the Inquiry that that was a new suggestion.  
22 They didn't think that children were made to wash the  
23 sheets in the bath and, as you have reflected on it, you  
24 don't think you were made to wash the sheets in the  
25 bath.

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. You remember having to take them to the laundry. Is  
3 that right?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. But what you do remember is being hit for wetting the  
6 bed.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. You mention how if you wet the bed the first night, you  
9 got four whacks with a cane.

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Was this on the hands?

12 **A. Yes, yes.**

13 Q. But if you wet the bed two nights in a row, you got  
14 eight whacks.

15 **A. That's right.**

16 Q. You explain then in paragraph 7, if we scroll down,  
17 please, that every morning you woke up terrified that  
18 your bed would be wet. You used to lie and say that you  
19 hadn't wet the bed.

20 Now the nuns have said to the Inquiry they don't  
21 think you would have got to sleep in a wet bed, because  
22 the nuns would have checked whether the bed was wet or  
23 not.

24 **A. I remember -- I remember lots of times rolling my wet  
25 nightdress up under my pillow and getting back in that**

1           **bed at night. I do remember that.**

2    Q.   That was in order to avoid it becoming known you had wet  
3           the bed?

4    **A. To avoid a beating.**

5    Q.   You then do explain in paragraph 7 that as well as  
6           getting hit, which presumably was to -- incorrectly  
7           believing that that would --

8    **A. Cure us.**

9    Q.   -- help you to stop.

10   **A. Yes.**

11   Q.   I mean, you wouldn't wet the bed anymore. You also  
12          describe having this buzzer system at a period.

13   **A. Yes. That was when I got to about 13, and it's --**  
14          **seemed to work. I don't know how long it took, but**  
15          **eventually I was dry at night through this machine.**

16   Q.   Can you remember were there other girls who had -- were  
17          there a number of machines at the same time?

18   **A. I don't remember.**

19   Q.   You don't remember?

20   **A. I only remember mine.**

21   Q.   But you remember it did ultimately help?

22   **A. Yes, yes.**

23   Q.   Then that meant that you stopped getting hit for wetting  
24          the bed.

25   **A. Hit, yes.**

1 Q. In paragraph 13 and 14 of your statement you describe  
2 a series of punishments that you remember for what you  
3 described as stepping out of line or minor things, as  
4 would you describe them, that you had done wrong. You  
5 recall how scrubbing was used as a punishment in  
6 addition to the fact that there was a regime that you  
7 had to clean the home with others.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. You recollect that you were made scrub corridors on your  
10 knees when you came in from school.

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Now others have said to the Inquiry that this floor  
13 scrubbing was more done on a Saturday and perhaps on a  
14 Friday afternoon in the school --

15 **A. Uh-huh.**

16 Q. -- but you recollect it happening for you more often  
17 than that.

18 **A. Yes. I remember having to come in from school, take my  
19 uniform off, change into my old clothes and then get  
20 a bucket, the scrubbing brush, the mat you knelt on, and  
21 off I'd go and scrub these corridors, and I remember  
22 taking my uniform off to do it.**

23 Q. Another punishment that you describe in this  
24 paragraph is writing hundreds of lines.

25 **A. Yes.**



1 Q. I was asking you was that a punishment you were given in  
2 school because of something you'd done in school, and  
3 you thought no, it was something that happened in the  
4 home --

5 **A. It was the nuns.**

6 Q. -- Itself.

7 **A. It was in the home, yes.**

8 Q. I was asking you could you remember what the lines were  
9 that you were having to do and it was, "I must not do  
10 ..."

11 **A. "I must not do ...", whatever I'd done and I'd have to**  
12 **write it 20,000, 25,000 times and I wasn't allowed to go**  
13 **to bed until I'd written it.**

14 Q. You describe in this paragraph:

15 "We also got sent to bed without any supper at about  
16 5.00 pm every day for a month as punishment."

17 Now I was asking you about that, because later in  
18 your statement you talk about having had the lead role  
19 in a play that the home was putting on, and that it was  
20 as a result of getting stage fright, as you described  
21 it, that, if we look at paragraph 15 of the statement,  
22 please, you describe:

23 "There was a big hall with a stage in the home and  
24 occasionally we would stage a play or a musical. I got  
25 the lead role one year because I was a good singer.

1           When it came to the dress rehearsal, I absolutely froze  
2           on stage. I was dragged off the stage by my hair and  
3           beaten black and blue, because they would have to find  
4           someone else to do it instead of me. I don't remember  
5           who it was who beat me. For a month after that I had to  
6           go straight to bed after school with no supper as  
7           punishment."

8           Now the nuns have said to the Inquiry that they  
9           don't believe children would have been put to bed at  
10          5 o'clock without supper for punishment, but when we go  
11          back to paragraph 13, where you mention this, really  
12          this is a one-off occasion that you recollect being  
13          punished by being sent to bed early without supper  
14          because of what happened over the stage fright.

15       **A. Yes.**

16       Q. If we just scroll back up to 13. So the other point  
17       I was asking you, you don't know that it was a month.  
18       It just seemed like a long period of time to you.

19       **A. Yes. I said a month, but it definitely happened,**  
20       **because I remember when the concerts were going on,**  
21       **I could hear the cheering and the clapping and I was in**  
22       **bed, but it probably wasn't a month.**

23       Q. Another punishment you talk about -- if we just scroll  
24       down a little, please, you got caught on one occasion  
25       listening to the Top 20 on the radio.

1 **A. Yes.**

2 Q. You were saying to me it was Radio Luxembourg.

3 **A. On a Sunday night when the Top 20 was on.**

4 Q. I think whenever I asked you about that, you said, well,  
5 you probably deserved to be punished on that occasion.

6 **A. I think I did.**

7 Q. You were also supposed to be in church at the time.

8 **A. Yes.**

9 Q. In paragraph 18 another punishment that you describe  
10 related to getting parcels from your mum. Your mum  
11 would have occasionally written and occasionally sent  
12 things, you think probably at Christmas, perhaps one or  
13 two times more often than that, but you remember  
14 a parcel coming for you and then you were told because  
15 of something you'd done that you weren't going to be  
16 given it.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Then do you want to just recount to the Panel the  
19 discussion we were having? You accepted that you could  
20 be crafty and that might have been why you fell foul of  
21 the nuns on occasions. Do you want to explain what you  
22 did with the parcel?

23 **A. Yes. I think when I was -- twice I was refused the**  
24 **parcel, we always knew when a parcel had arrived,**  
25 **because somebody would say to me, "There's a parcel**

1        **upstairs for you". So we'd sneak in. We'd discreetly**  
2        **open the parcel, take out the sweets and if there was**  
3        **any money, and then we'd wrap it up again, the parcel,**  
4        **and just act as if we'd never seen it. So that was one**  
5        **of the things.**

6    Q.    So it might have been on one occasion you interfering  
7        with a parcel.

8    **A.    And they noticed.**

9    Q.    That might have got you into trouble.

10   **A.    Uh-huh.**

11   Q.    You don't remember. You just know you did that with  
12        a parcel, and you know that sometimes parcels didn't  
13        make their way to you.

14   **A.    Sometimes you didn't get the sweets, and I think that**  
15        **was the main reason, that we went in the back -- we went**  
16        **in it for the sweets.**

17   Q.    In paragraph 19 then you describe getting into trouble  
18        because of a letter that you wrote to your mum asking  
19        for bell bottom jeans. You said to me you didn't know  
20        what you were going to do with bell bottom jeans, as you  
21        reflect on it, because everybody had a uniform, but you  
22        sneaked the letter into the postbox and somehow the nuns  
23        came to know about what you had written. That got you  
24        into trouble for having done it behind the nuns' back.

25   **A.    Yes. I posted the letter. The letters were censored**

1 I suppose. The letters were checked before they were  
2 allowed to be posted. The idea of the bell bottom jeans  
3 was my friends at secondary school were wearing them to  
4 school and then changing into their uniform when they  
5 got there, and I wanted to be like them.

6 Q. In paragraph 13 of your statement at 830 you talk about  
7 how the nuns had their pets, but you weren't one of  
8 them. Can you just explain a little about what you mean  
9 by that?

10 A. Well, I just -- I just permanently seemed to be in  
11 trouble. I don't remember ever being treated nice. It  
12 was always, you know, "There's the bucket. Go and scrub  
13 the floors" or "Go down and help in the laundry" or  
14 "You've got to clean the church". It just seems to be  
15 constantly I was at the front of the queue for the  
16 punishments.

17 Q. In paragraph 25 you mention something. It is in the  
18 context of later life. You mentioned it in passing. It  
19 is at 833. The nuns told you -- this is in the context  
20 of your choice you were explaining of partner:

21 "All we were told by the nuns was not to marry  
22 a Protestant."

23 Now can I ask you -- you were explaining to me then  
24 in school that the nuns did explain to you about how  
25 long it took to have a baby and that sort of

1 information. Can you just explain what you were being  
2 told?

3 **A. Yes. The only idea I had was, "Don't marry**  
4 **a Protestant. Your marriage is doomed from the start.**  
5 **It is against God's wishes", and then talking about**  
6 **babies, "When was the feast of the Immaculate**  
7 **Conception?" "25th March." "When was Jesus born?"**  
8 **"25th December", and we had to count up how many months**  
9 **that was. I remember being totally shocked, because**  
10 **I thought you had a baby in a week, but that was the**  
11 **only sex education that I ever remember. It wasn't even**  
12 **sex education. That's the only thing I remember about**  
13 **how not to get pregnant or whatever.**

14 Q. In paragraph 8 of your statement, HIA316, you mention  
15 an occasion when ,  
16 NHB84 -- if we can go back to 829, please, paragraph 8,  
17 you mention how there were two priests that you  
18 remember. NHB84 you remember was standing at the edge  
19 of your bed. Now this  
20 was in the dormitory --

21 **A. Yes.**

22 Q. -- with -- and there would have been twenty, twenty-five  
23 other girls at the time in your dormitory --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and then the nun had her cell in the corner?

1 **A. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. You say you woke up. Your nightdress was around your  
3 waist, and you don't remember anything sexual happening.  
4 So you don't remember him touching you in any way?

5 **A. No.**

6 Q. He was at the end of your bed.

7 **A. I just remember him being at the bottom of my bed.  
8 I woke up, because I was startled, and he moved away.**

9 Q. But you yourself don't say that he did anything to you?

10 **A. No.**

11 Q. He has provided a statement to the Inquiry that I was  
12 discussing with you. If we just look at his reply at  
13 paragraph 11, please, at 80077, he explains his role to  
14 the Inquiry, and then in respect of this particular  
15 allegation if we just move on to the ...

16 "I have been asked about ..."

17 this allegation relating to you. He doesn't  
18 remember you, but he explains that he was never in the  
19 children's sleeping area in daytime or at any time. If  
20 he visited the house at night, it would have been as  
21 a result of a phone call from the staff to visit  
22 an elderly patient who was sick or dying and was met at  
23 the door by one of the Sisters. He didn't have a key  
24 which allowed him to enter the house. He was let in by  
25 one of the Sisters.

1 "I would have been accompanied by the Sister when  
2 I visited elderly residents, and I would have been  
3 accompanied by a Sister who would have seen me to the  
4 door again. At no time did I ever visit any child  
5 during the night and deny that this event happened as  
6 described. If I had been telephoned to visit a child,  
7 the procedure would have been the same as that in  
8 operation for a visit to an elderly or sick person and  
9 a staff member would have been present."

10 I was asking you: "Is there any possibility what you  
11 remember was you ill and the priest and a nun might have  
12 been beside your bed and you've woke up and that's the  
13 memory that you have?"

14 **A. My only memory of ever being ill was taken into**  
15 **hospital, having my tonsils out, but the recollection of**  
16 **him at the bottom of my bed, I don't remember seeing**  
17 **a nun with him.**

18 Q. What the congregation has said to the Inquiry, if we  
19 look, please, at 2143 and paragraph 7 of the replying  
20 statement, if we just scroll up, please:

21 "There would be no reason for the priest to be in  
22 the children's dormitory without being accompanied by  
23 a Sister at night-time."

24 They weren't made aware of the incident. I was  
25 asking you: "Did you ever mention the incident that you



1 now recall at the time?" and you said to me that you  
2 didn't mention it.

3 **A. We never mentioned anything. We just didn't question**  
4 **anything.**

5 Q. I'm just reminded we can see a name appearing on the  
6 screen. If we just take that down, please. No name  
7 should be used beyond the chamber.

8 You mention in paragraph 11 of your statement, if we  
9 look at 830, one of the memories that you have, HIA316,  
10 of -- associated with the home is the stigma that you  
11 felt through the comments of others when you went out to  
12 school and them commenting about, "Oh, she's from the  
13 home". Is that something that happened a lot?

14 **A. Occasionally -- occasionally the nuns would take us**  
15 **walking to Ormeau Park. So we were all dressed the same**  
16 **and I vividly recall people pointing and saying, "Look**  
17 **at them. They're from the home". I had the same at**  
18 **school, girls giggling and saying, "She's at the home.**  
19 **She hasn't got any parents", that type of thing. I did**  
20 **have friends when I was at school. I was happy at**  
21 **school, but you still felt a bit of an outcast.**

22 Q. In paragraph 16 of your statement on 831 you talk about  
23 Irish dancing. You say that there was serious trouble  
24 if you didn't win medals and cups. I think the nuns  
25 have said you wouldn't have got into serious trouble for

1 not winning. The fact is you did win a lot of medals  
2 and cups --

3 **A. Yes, yes.**

4 Q. -- for the Irish dancing.

5 **A. Yes. I remember coming home with cups and medals. We**  
6 **were usually pretty good. I'm not saying we won every**  
7 **time, but it was there. The threat was, "Make sure you**  
8 **come back with something".**

9 Q. In paragraph 21 of your statement, HIA316, you -- 832 --  
10 you talk about being kept on to work for a year with the  
11 ladies -- the older ladies --

12 **A. Yes.**

13 Q. -- who were living in the home. I was asking you: "Did  
14 that not mean -- obviously there was a lot of girls in  
15 the home and then leaving. If you were asked to stay  
16 on, was that not a badge of honour, as it were, that  
17 they wanted to keep you on to work with them?" Did you  
18 see it that way?

19 **A. No. I left school one day and I was told I was going to**  
20 **work with the old people, you know. I think I used to**  
21 **have half a day off a week, but no, I was told this is**  
22 **where I'd be working and that was it.**

23 Q. You explain in the second half of this paragraph that  
24 you were petrified of the old ladies dying. You didn't  
25 want to be touching them.

1 **A. Touching them. Uh-huh.**

2 Q. The Order has said to the Inquiry, if we look at  
3 paragraph 18, please, of their statement at 2144:

4 "At the age of 15 HIA316 wouldn't have been expected  
5 to lay out dead bodies of the elderly residents."

6 If we go back to your statement at paragraph 21,  
7 832, please, it wasn't so much laying the bodies out  
8 that you were recounting to me earlier. You were  
9 explaining that there was a period in the evening  
10 between 7.00 and 9.00 when -- do you want to just  
11 explain to the Panel what it was like?

12 **A. I remember three nights a week I was on my own from 7.00**  
13 **till 9.00. If anybody was dying, the curtains were**  
14 **round the bed, so you knew when you went on to the ward.**  
15 **There'd be a candle lit and a crucifix and the rosaries**  
16 **and it used to be, "If you think Mrs So-and-So is dying,**  
17 **wrap the rosaries round her hand and recite the Hail**  
18 **Mary into her ear", but I was just -- I was scared to go**  
19 **behind the curtains. I used to just peep through and**  
20 **hoped and prayed that they hadn't died.**

21 Q. Then you say in the last sentence you used to -- you  
22 used to hide in the bathroom. They took you out of the  
23 bathroom --

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. -- and made you lay out the dead bodies.

1    **A. I was made to lay out the dead bodies and wash them**  
2    **a few times.**

3    Q. Was there a nun doing that as well?

4    **A. Yes, yes. I wasn't doing it on my own.**

5    Q. In paragraph 29 of your statement at 834 you explain  
6    that you never reported the abuse you suffered to the  
7    police:

8            "We never considered it abuse. We didn't know any  
9    different."

10           Can you just explain to the Panel what you meant by  
11    that?

12   **A. We just took it to be normal behaviour. That was how**  
13   **everybody got treated. It wouldn't even have occurred**  
14   **to us. Who would we have reported it to anyway? We**  
15   **didn't know any policemen. We didn't know anybody. So**  
16   **we just thought it was normal. It is not till you**  
17   **figure it out yourself twenty, thirty years later that**  
18   **you realise it was a very abusive childhood.**

19   Q. HIA316, there are two questions towards the end of each  
20   individual's evidence that we ask. The first relates to  
21   recommendations. At the end of the Panel's work the  
22   Panel will consider what recommendations they might make  
23   to the Northern Ireland Government about three areas:  
24   some form of apology -- I know you said the apology you  
25   received personal to you was helpful; some form of

1 memorial perhaps of some kind; or some other means of  
2 redress. We ask each witness whether there's anything  
3 they want to say to the Panel to assist with the Panel's  
4 thinking about recommendations that they might make. Is  
5 there anything you want to say about that?

6 **A. In my opinion I don't see the point of a memorial. To**  
7 **me it would be just bringing back awful memories.**  
8 **An apology would be nice and some redress would be nice.**

9 Q. The last question that we ask each witness is whether  
10 there's anything else about their time in the home that  
11 we're looking at, which is Nazareth House -- perhaps  
12 something I haven't covered, something I've got slightly  
13 wrong, or we haven't covered in enough detail, or maybe  
14 something else that you want to say about your time in  
15 Nazareth House. Now is your opportunity to do that. Is  
16 there anything else you want to say about your time  
17 there?

18 **A. No, I don't think there is. I think I've given as much**  
19 **as I can remember.**

20 Q. HIA316, I'm not going to ask you any more questions. If  
21 you just remain where you are for a short time, the  
22 Panel may want to ask you something.

23 **A. Right.**

24 **Questions from THE PANEL**

25 MS DOHERTY: HIA316, thanks very much. That was really

1 helpful. Can I just ask were there other staff around  
2 when SR116 was hitting you for the bedwetting?

3 **A. No, it was always her and I in her cell where she did**  
4 **it.**

5 Q. So she would take you into the cell?

6 **A. Yes, yes.**

7 Q. Were there other lay staff that worked with her in your  
8 unit?

9 **A. I remember a young -- she wasn't fully a nun. She was**  
10 **like ...**

11 Q. A postulant?

12 **A. Yes, yes, I do -- I remember that. She was sort of**  
13 **shadowing her.**

14 Q. How did she treat you?

15 **A. Oh, she was all right, yes, but I can't remember her**  
16 **name.**

17 Q. Okay. In relation to other staff were there lay staff  
18 around generally? Can you remember any?

19 **A. No, no, I can't. I just remember always being nuns.**

20 Q. Okay. In relation -- you talked about favourites. Can  
21 you say a wee bit more about that? Did the favourites  
22 get preferential treatment or --

23 **A. No, I don't remember them getting preferential**  
24 **treatment. I just remember they were the ones that were**  
25 **never in trouble.**

1 Q. Okay.

2 **A. Sorry.**

3 Q. That's fine. Thanks very much.

4 MR LANE: You have mentioned about being left on your own  
5 between 7.00 and 9.00 when you were working with the  
6 older people.

7 **A. Yes.**

8 Q. Were you the only one who got picked to do that that  
9 year or were there a number of girls who stayed on?

10 **A. No, there was only me.**

11 Q. Right.

12 **A. I don't remember any other girls working up there with  
13 me.**

14 Q. So when you were on your own, if something was  
15 happening, did you have any access to a nun to call for  
16 help?

17 **A. No. I just had to wait until whoever came on at  
18 9 o'clock.**

19 Q. They presumably were at prayers and things like that?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Okay. Thank you very much.

22 **A. Thank you.**

23 CHAIRMAN: Well, HIA316, I'm sure you'll be relieved to know  
24 we don't have any more questions for you. Thank you  
25 very much indeed for coming to speak to us, particularly

1 since you have had to come some distance to do that  
2 today. Thank you for coming and sharing your  
3 recollections with us. Thank you.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 CHAIRMAN: Now we have a couple of matters that are going to  
6 be dealt with now. So if you would like to go with  
7 , that's your part finished.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 **(Witness withdrew)**

10 **Summary of evidence of WITNESS HIA234**

11 MR AIKEN: Chairman, Members of the Panel, the next witness'  
12 evidence I'm going to deal with is HIA234, who is  
13 HIA234. She is "HIA234". She is been unable to attend  
14 to give oral evidence due to medical reasons, an  
15 explanation that the Inquiry has accepted, and the  
16 Inquiry assumes that she wishes to preserve the  
17 anonymity afforded to her by the Inquiry in respect of  
18 her evidence, and therefore the Inquiry will proceed on  
19 that basis.

20 The witness statement that she has provided, if we  
21 can bring up, please, 329, you see the first page. The  
22 last page, please, at 335. The Panel will have the  
23 signed copy of HIA234's statement and I have a signed  
24 copy in my papers.

25 In addition, the Panel has had access to and the



1 opportunity to consider -- HIA234 made a statement to  
2 police on 20th May of 2010 and that can be found at  
3 61248 through to 61250.

4 In addition, HIA234 has had a civil claim ongoing  
5 and the Statement of Claim relating to that can be found  
6 at 71241 through to 71246.

7 The Sisters of Nazareth have provided a replying  
8 statement, which can be found at 1992 through to 1993,  
9 and paragraph 6 of that statement contains an apology to  
10 HIA234 for any occasions whenever her treatment fell  
11 beneath that that was to be expected.

12 There then is a statement from SR191, that is SR191,  
13 not SR31, who you'd have heard much more about during  
14 the module. SR191 was in the home between 1964 and 1971  
15 and worked with the old people. She has provided a  
16 statement as to her recollection of the assistance given  
17 to her by HIA234. That's at SNB-1577. We will come  
18 back to the reasons for that in due course.

19 HIA234 complains about her treatment at the hands of  
20 SR116. SR116, who is SR116, was in the home between  
21 1961 and 1967. She was interviewed by police as part of  
22 an investigation into her on 22nd May of 2012. The  
23 interview runs from 61295 through to 61400 and there's  
24 over 100 pages of interview. It related to twelve  
25 individuals, and it did include the police statement of

1 HIA234 being put to SR116, and that particular aspect  
2 runs from 61356 through to 61360.

3 The Health & Social Care Board have provided  
4 a statement to the Inquiry and it runs from 6778 through  
5 to 6780 and it has exhibits that run from 6781 through  
6 to 6794. The Health & Social Care Board statement  
7 explains that to the best of its knowledge HIA234 was  
8 a private placement during her time living in Nazareth,  
9 but because of particular medical difficulties that she  
10 has, there was much later involvement with Social  
11 Services after her time living in Nazareth House.

12 The statement confirms the serious medical  
13 difficulties experienced by HIA234. She refers them to  
14 them herself in her statement and the Inquiry has  
15 received other material that sets out those difficulties  
16 in some detail and I don't intend to go into them any  
17 further.

18 HIA234 was in the home between [REDACTED] --  
19 sorry. HIA234 was born [REDACTED] and is now  
20 aged 67. She entered the home on [REDACTED], aged 1  
21 [REDACTED], into the babies' home. She remained there  
22 until 12th August 1964, aged 16. Her register entry is  
23 at 4234, although she herself says, and as others  
24 acknowledge, she returned to the home after her initial  
25 period leaving back to see her mother, and she carried

1 on living and working in the home until at least the age  
2 of 23 and perhaps -- the Health & Social Care Board have  
3 drawn the Inquiry's attention to the fact it may have  
4 been, in fact, much longer. That connection carried on  
5 right up until some period in the 1980s.

6 HIA234 explains in her statement the experiences  
7 that she, when speaking to the Inquiry, recollects about  
8 those who were to look after her. She explains the  
9 physical experiences that she recalls having.

10 The congregation have said to the Inquiry they don't  
11 believe that -- some of what is described as how a child  
12 would have been treated, but HIA234 has set out what her  
13 recollections are, and further detail about those  
14 matters can be found in the police statement. In  
15 particular, I'll draw your attention to paragraph 20 of  
16 the statement, where she describes the surroundings in  
17 Nazareth House. You did hear something like that from  
18 another witness.

19 The Inquiry also has access to a detailed medical  
20 report from Dr of 9th February 2013.  
21 That runs from 71256 through to 71261. I am not going  
22 to go into the detail of that. It merely records that  
23 HIA234 has had a very difficult life, has significant  
24 difficulties, including with her memory, and that made  
25 it difficult for an assessment to be made of what she

1 was describing.

2 That's all I propose to say to the Panel. Obviously  
3 the Panel has the material there to refer to and has had  
4 the opportunity to consider that material. Unless there  
5 is anything further that I can assist with, that's what  
6 I propose to say about HIA234's evidence.

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

8 MR AIKEN: I know that Ms Smith is going to deal with the  
9 next matter. If the Panel are happy to remain for a few  
10 moments, it may be she is in a position to do that very  
11 shortly.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. (Pause.)

13 Summary of evidence of WITNESS HIA85

14 MS SMITH: Good afternoon, Chairman and Panel Members. The  
15 last piece of evidence to be dealt with today is that of  
16 "HIA85", HIA85. There is no reason -- HIA85 is unable  
17 to attend to give evidence and we have received a note  
18 from her general practitioner, which can be found at  
19 SNB-33076. We have no reason to suspect she doesn't  
20 wish -- rather that she does wish her anonymity to be  
21 removed. So it will be maintained for the purpose of  
22 this summary.

23 Her witness statement can be found at SNB-263 to  
24 273.

25 The congregation's response is at SNB-1974 to 1976.

1           The Health & Social Care Board response is at 5747  
2           to 5748. They indicate that they have no records in  
3           respect of HIA85 and they believe that she was a private  
4           placement.

5           In the bundle also we have civil claim papers, which  
6           are at SNB-70575 to 576.

7           There is police material at 62409 to 62418.

8           HIA85's statement is on the screen and her personal  
9           details are set out there in paragraphs 1 to 3. She is  
10          now aged 70 years of age and she was in Nazareth House  
11          between 1945 and 1960.

12          At paragraph 4 she indicates that she doesn't have  
13          very much of a memory of her early years in Nazareth  
14          House, but from turning into her teens the care she  
15          received and the incidents that happened to her began,  
16          which would have been approximately 1959 onwards. She  
17          said the nun in charge of her group was SR101 and she  
18          was very cruel to her.

19          "My mother visited me in the home every Thursday."

20          She would visit her brother in the Lodge as well:

21          "... and I think I went to visit my brother once in  
22          the fifteen years I was in Nazareth House. There was no  
23          interaction encouraged between us."

24          In paragraph 5 of her statement she describes the  
25          schooling that she received. She says that:

1 "Religion was a major feature of the teaching.  
2 There were some clever girls. The nuns picked them out  
3 and sent them to night school, but didn't bother with  
4 the rest of us."

5 She said that her passion for music wasn't  
6 encouraged. She went to St. Monica's when it had just  
7 opened. She said she felt so lost there. It was so big  
8 and different to what she was used to in a small class  
9 in the home. She thinks she only spent a year there.

10 In paragraph 6 she goes on to recall bath time and  
11 describe it. She said that she once got warm water when  
12 she asked for it, and it depended on the kind of mood  
13 that they were in whether the nuns would have given what  
14 was asked for. She describes Jeyes Fluid being put in  
15 the bath, which was very unpleasant and stung the skin  
16 and would make the skin smart. She said:

17 "Whichever nun was on duty would bathe us."

18 Then when they got out, their skin would be red and  
19 inflamed due to the harshness of the fluid.

20 After she reached puberty from then onwards they  
21 were allowed to bathe themselves. She says they used  
22 normal soap.

23 Paragraph 7, she describes the older girls washing  
24 the hair and Jeyes Fluid being used to wash the hair,  
25 which is what the congregation would accept, that Jeyes

1 Fluid would have been used for hair washing for head  
2 lice.

3 She said on one occasion an older girl in the home  
4 put Jeyes Fluid directly into her ear, which resulted in  
5 her eardrum bursting and severe pain. After the  
6 incident one of the nuns she said took her to the Mater  
7 Hospital in Dublin:

8 "... and we were told that they couldn't do anything  
9 for her -- for me as they were afraid of me going deaf."

10 Now it seems strange that she was actually taken to  
11 a hospital in Dublin, but there may have been some  
12 particular reason for that. She said as a result her  
13 ear has been problematic for most of her life and  
14 continued to discharge.

15 She  
16 describes the effect this had on her in paragraph 8.

17 She also describes an incident where another nun  
18 whom she names there, SR145, she was in charge of the  
19 sick children, and she told her she had a bad ear and  
20 the nun asked her which ear it was.

21 "I pointed to it and, upon telling her, she  
22 proceeded to give me a slap on the other ear, saying,  
23 'Now you've two sore ears'",

24 and sent her on her way. She also believes that  
25 SR145 was removed from the home during her time there.

1           She said that she was very frightened of becoming  
2           ill, because you weren't allowed to be ill in her view  
3           and you would never be given the appropriate care and  
4           support.

5           "We did see a doctor every now and again, but you  
6           were afraid to tell him anything and the nuns were  
7           always there anyway."

8           The congregation have expressed their distress that  
9           she felt she wasn't given the appropriate care and  
10          support for this difficulty that she had with her ear.  
11          She does describe getting treatment in later life for  
12          it.

13          In paragraph 10 of her statement she describes the  
14          food in the home and the routine in the home. She said  
15          the food was great. She remembers being hungry. She  
16          describes getting boiled eggs on a Friday, but half of  
17          them being black inside. She said they only ever got  
18          a fried egg on a feast day, which was a treat. Before  
19          breakfast they had to go to mass and then they had  
20          chores to do.

21          "We were never off our knees, either praying or  
22          scrubbing floors."

23          She goes on to speak about the bedwetting and the  
24          treatment the girls received. She said they were  
25          severely punished for bedwetting.



1            "It got so bad I was too scared to go to sleep and  
2            would pray to God and say, 'Please, God, don't let me  
3            wet the bed tonight'."

4            She said in her early teens the nuns made the  
5            "Wet-the-Beds" walk around with nappies on. She had to  
6            go down to the laundry, where she describes being beaten  
7            by a civilian worker in the laundry, whom she names  
8            there, and on one occasion she said that she hammered  
9            her with a walking stick. She was sobbing her heart out  
10           going back to the dining room and SR101 smirked and  
11           said, "Did you have a hard time down there?"

12           She said the way she was treated that day has  
13           scarred her for life. It made her a very nervous  
14           person:

15           "... and even now I don't like people coming up  
16           behind me."

17           The congregation do not accept that girls were ever  
18           made to wear nappies because they wet the bed.

19           She talks about -- in paragraph 12 about films being  
20           shown and about the humiliation that she experienced  
21           when those who had wet the bed were told they were not  
22           allowed to watch the film, those who had wet the bed the  
23           night before. She has reacted to that. She remembers  
24           the film in particular. When it comes on, she makes  
25           a point of watching it.

1 Paragraph 14 -- sorry -- paragraph 13 she describes  
2 that:

3 "Quite regularly when out playing in the garden, we  
4 would be subjected to having our heads banged repeatedly  
5 by the nuns against a red-brick wall. On one particular  
6 day SR101 was banging my head against the wall so  
7 severely that SR134 announced that she thought I'd had  
8 enough, and SR101 stopped."

9 She said:

10 "SR134 saved me that day and I am grateful for that.  
11 I can't even remember why SR101 was banging my head  
12 against the wall. She didn't need a reason. The nuns  
13 made us feel worthless. We had no self-esteem and  
14 walked around with our heads bowed. Even later when we  
15 went out to work, the nuns would always tell us not to  
16 try to get ideas above our station."

17 The congregation do not accept that any child ever  
18 had her head banged off the wall.

19 In paragraph 14 she says that the nuns lashed out  
20 for no particular reason. They would be hit to the back  
21 of the head, poked in the back, hit across the legs with  
22 a cane, and if they talked during meal time, they were  
23 hit on the back of the knuckles with a spoon. If they  
24 were caught speaking in the dormitory, they would be  
25 made to sleep on a stone floor by the back door, which

1 was uncomfortable.

2 She remembers one time being sent downstairs to the  
3 kitchen to scrub the floor on her own. She was scared  
4 and for a moment wanted to end it. She said there was  
5 a geyser there full of boiling water and she felt an  
6 urge to scald her hand. At the time she didn't  
7 understand her feelings:

8 "... but looking back, I just wanted somebody to  
9 look after me. A nun came in behind me and said,  
10 'I wouldn't do that if I were you, HIA85'. She must  
11 have been able to sense what I was thinking. She taught  
12 the younger children and she was very stern, but  
13 I didn't have any -- many dealings with her."

14 That was SR177 that she was describing.

15 She said:

16 "On other occasions, if the nuns felt like it, they  
17 would send us out into the garden with no shoes on. It  
18 didn't matter if it was snowing or raining, and that  
19 would also be a punishment for bedwetting."

20 She talks about being referred to by numbers in the  
21 home in paragraph 17. She said:

22 "To this day I remember I was number 16 when I was  
23 young, and as I became older, I was given the number and  
24 referred to as 65."

25 Now the Inquiry is aware that the congregation have

1 always said that numbers were used on the clothing, and  
2 they were used so that whenever the laundry was done,  
3 the child could be given the right clothing. This may  
4 bear some connection to the fact that she was given two  
5 different numbers, that as she became bigger and the  
6 clothing became bigger, that that might relate to why  
7 she became -- she went from 16 to 65, but that's some  
8 degree of speculation on that on my part.

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. She said she was told particularly by this particular nun, SR101, that she was possessed by the devil and they would get a priest to say prayers over her.

"The nuns used to tell me that when I was 2 years old, I had pneumonia, and all the nuns crowded around my bed saying prayers that I would live. Years later one nun said to me, 'We should have let you die'. I can't remember which nun it was, but I remember thinking I agreed with her."

In paragraph 16 -- sorry -- in paragraph 16 -- actually just going back to that, I should say that she also makes the point that there were punishments took place on the stage in front of everyone else. Sorry. It is paragraph 18:

1            "... that if you had done anything wrong, you would  
2            be called into the hall with the rest of the girls.  
3            Your number would be called out and you would be asked  
4            to come up to the stage. Once there you would be told  
5            to lie down and one nun would hold both your legs in the  
6            air whilst another nun would hit you repeatedly across  
7            the bottom with a stick, a hairbrush or whatever  
8            implement they could get their hands on. They would  
9            also ask you to bend over a low bench or chair and again  
10           hit you repeatedly. This happened to me once and I saw  
11           it happen to other girls on numerous occasions. It was  
12           so degrading. SR101 usually carried out these beatings  
13           with the help of whatever nun she could get."

14           In paragraph 19 she goes on to describe what was the  
15           most traumatic times for her in the home, when she was  
16           subject to sexual abuse by older girls.

17           "It would happen at night-time or in some cases  
18           during the day if they got the chance to get us on our  
19           own. They would take us to the bathroom, make us kneel  
20           down and perform oral sex on them. They would force us  
21           to do this and push our heads down towards their genital  
22           area. I was in my teens when this happened and  
23           I experienced this several times. I cannot say with  
24           certainty who these older girls were. There was one  
25           particular older girl", whom she names there as NHB41,

1 "who was a bully and physically abused me, but  
2 I couldn't say if it was her who sexually abused me."

3 In the next paragraph she goes on to describe the  
4 physical abuse by this older girl, NHB41, whom she  
5 describes having grabbed her from the altar:

6 "In front of all the nuns she grabbed me from the  
7 altar and dragged me away by the hair out of there.  
8 I was screaming for help, but the nuns just sat there  
9 and did nothing."

10 She believes that she was sent to the Good Shepherd:

11 "... and when you go there, your name is changed."

12 I should say that the police did -- have  
13 investigated the complaints that have been made by HIA85  
14 and they have been unable to locate NHB41.

15 The congregation have said at no point were they  
16 ever aware of any such sexual abuse taking place in the  
17 home, and at paragraph 12 of their response statement  
18 they offer HIA85 and any other child who suffered in  
19 such a way an apology for that.

20 At paragraph 19 -- sorry -- paragraph 21 of her  
21 statement she goes on to say how she left Nazareth House  
22 when she was 15 years of age and she went to live with  
23 a friend of her mother's and she met her brother there,  
24 who was living there at the same time. She found it  
25 difficult to settle, as she was basically

1 institutionalised from living in Nazareth House, and she  
2 was in no way prepared for life outside. She didn't  
3 have any idea of the value of money, how to cook, and  
4 didn't know anything about the facts of life. She said:

5 "We should have got help leaving the home, but you  
6 couldn't say anything bad about the nuns in those days.  
7 It was sacrilege. I did not know how to converse or  
8 relate to other people outside the home. This was  
9 a very difficult period for me and adjusting to the  
10 outside world was a great challenge. Although I hated  
11 my time in Nazareth House, my confidence was so low that  
12 all I wanted to do was to return there."

13 In paragraphs 22 to 37 she describes life after she  
14 left Nazareth House, and in paragraph 34 at page 272 she  
15 describes the effect that her time had on her. She  
16 said:

17 "The abuse I suffered has greatly affected my  
18 personality. The fact that I had been subjected to this  
19 physical, sexual and verbal abuse for all of my  
20 childhood has had a massive effect on my life. I am  
21 only now coming to terms with what happened to me, as  
22 I have faced up to my demons, whereas before now I was  
23 too embarrassed and ashamed to admit what I had  
24 experienced."

25 Paragraph 35:

1            "As a result of the horrendous times I experienced  
2            in Nazareth House, I believe that it has affected me  
3            throughout the whole of my life, and has had a marked  
4            effect on how I behave and how I feel."

5            Paragraph 37 there she describes how she has spoken  
6            to a policeman from the PSNI over the phone about her  
7            time in Nazareth House. There was a witness statement  
8            prepared by the police, unsigned -- it was signed, but  
9            undated, but from the police material it would appear to  
10           have been some time after September 2014. The content  
11           of that statement, which can be found at SNB-62412  
12           through to 62415, is consistent with the complaints that  
13           she makes in her Inquiry statement.

14           Finally, at paragraph 13 of their response statement  
15           the congregation have offered to HIA85 a sincere -- an  
16           unreserved and most sincere apology for any treatment  
17           she received by any Sister which fell below the  
18           acceptable standard.

19           Chairman, Panel Members, that summarises the  
20           evidence that would have been given by HIA85, had she  
21           been able to attend the Inquiry herself. Unless there's  
22           anything further that you wish me to respond to, there's  
23           nothing I feel needs to be drawn to the Inquiry's  
24           attention.

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



1 Well, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our  
2 business for this morning, and as we will now be rising  
3 for the Easter holidays, our intention at present is to  
4 resume on Monday, 13th April. Should there be any  
5 change in that, the revised timetable will, of course,  
6 be posted on the Inquiry website and the parties will be  
7 notified. Thank you.

8 (12.40 pm)

9 (Hearing adjourned until Monday, 13th April 2015)

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